

TODAY

WIN FREE FLIGHTS WITH VIRGIN
DETAILS AND
TODAY
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BEAUTY AND THE BEASTS
Brigitte Bardot
on mad cows and
monstrous men

MAGAZINE



SIMON BARNES

No medals?
No problem
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ROMAN BRITAIN

Part one:
full page
colour guide
to Roman sites
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MONDAY

THE TIMES
FOR ONLY
10P
EVERY
SUMMER
MONDAY

Hogg learnt of calves risk on July 19

Europe ready to scrap beef export deal

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Michael Dynes in Brussels

JOHN MAJOR'S hopes of lifting most of the ban on British beef exports by November were in tatters last night after Germany and Brussels virtually tore up the deal that ended the beef war with Europe.

After the revelation that "mad cow" disease can be passed from mother to calf, the German Agriculture Minister called for a return to the total ban on British beef and its by-products while Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, called for a rethink of the framework drawn up in Florence six weeks ago.

As the crisis deepened Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, came under pressure over charges that he deliberately withheld information from Parliament. In a letter to Herr Fischler, suggesting evidence of maternal transmission of BSE.

In a Commons debate on July 24, Mr Hogg made no mention of the study by Government scientists on cow to calf transmission which had been put before the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee five days earlier, on July 19.

Mr Hogg had been aware of the interim findings and, according to Herr Fischler's spokesman yesterday, had communicated them to him three weeks ago.

But Agriculture Ministry officials said Mr Hogg could not have been expected to inform the Commons of the findings until the specialist committee had reported to him, which it did earlier this week.

Herr Fischler said in a letter to Mr Hogg, released yesterday, that he understood it was the new information about maternal transmission that had led him to postpone last month the implementation of the programme for the selective slaughter of 147,000 cattle. But officials said Herr Fischler was mistaken. They



Hogg: no mention of calves study to MPs

pointed to Mr Hogg's explanation in the Commons debate that there was already a big backlog in the related scheme for the slaughter of up to one million cows aged 30 months and over.

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat agriculture spokesman, accused Mr Hogg of "a deliberate failure to inform Parliament of the latest BSE scientific evidence", and said that if MPs had known last week that the whole programme was back in the melting pot he would have had a much rougher ride.

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, said: "It has now been revealed that Douglas Hogg told Herr Fischler about the latest evidence on BSE being passed from cow to calf three weeks ago. But he didn't tell the House of Commons, even though he had every opportunity to do so. The Tories claim they stick up for Britain in Europe and stick up for the rights of the British Parliament. Douglas Hogg hasn't done that. Quite the reverse. He stuck two fingers up to the House of Commons."

Senior MPs said that if the Commons were still sitting, Mr Hogg would have been in serious trouble yesterday over the disclosure that he had not told MPs.

There was also doubt over Mr Hogg's assertion that only last-born calves were at risk

from the transmission of the disease from infected mothers. Derek Ammon, herdsman at Park Farm, Limsfield, Surrey, gave *The Times* details of three cases in which the first-born calf of mothers which had died from the disease had also perished. In one case the mother and calf died on the same day.

"This evidence disputes everything they were saying yesterday. Herdsmen on other farms have told me the same thing has happened there. Once again we are being given bogus information," he said.

Euro-sceptic Tory MPs reacted with anger after Jochen Borchert, the German Agriculture Minister, called for a total embargo on British beef, with the EU reconsidering its decision to relax the ban on exports of semen, gelatine and tallow.

Some MPs called for the EU non-cooperation tactic to be revived, although ministers are likely to reject the idea as counter-productive.

After the Florence summit, Mr Major said he hoped most of the ban would be over by November. But Mr Hogg's decision to delay putting the selective cull orders to the Commons means that there cannot be parliamentary authority for it until October at the earliest. Mr Tyler predicted yesterday that Mr Hogg would lose the vote and his position would become untenable.

The biggest blow was the letter from Herr Fischler to Mr Hogg, suggesting that a review of the framework deal would be required now that the new route of BSE infection had been discovered. He asked two EU scientific committees to look into whether the selective slaughter of up to 147,000 cattle from previously infected herds planned for this autumn should be extended to calves. Their recommendations

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Lure of gold: another record-beating medal would make Carl Lewis the most marketable athlete in the world

Carl Lewis in the backroom stakes

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN ATLANTA

AMERICA'S star athlete Carl Lewis will probably have a chance today to become the most gilded Olympian of all time — but only after a rum chapter of committee-room manoeuvres and commercial muscle-flexing.

While the British runners were dropping the baton yesterday in the heats, the suave Lewis appeared to have smoothed his way onto the American 4 x 100 metres relay team, despite the fact that he neither qualified for the event in Olympic trials nor trained with the team. His desire to join the race, and run in today's final, is stronger than a boyish desire to run at school sports day. There is money at stake. Victory would make him the most marketable sportsman in the world.

After his win in the Olympic longjump this week, one more

gold medal would take Lewis past the hauls of Mark Spitz, the US swimmer, Larisa Latynina, the Soviet gymnast, and Paavo Nurmi, the Finnish long-distance runner. Lewis could then justifiably call himself the greatest athlete of all time and charge sponsors accordingly.



"Told you I'd bring something back from Atlanta"

Herv Hunt, who coaches the US athletes, said that Lewis would receive "strong consideration" for the final.

Soon after Lewis won the longjump he let it be known that he would like to run in the relay, despite the fact that there was no vacancy. He denied "lobbying" for the slot but the signals were clear.

Suddenly, Leroy Burrell, a member of the relay team, discovered that he had a sore ankle which would prevent him running. He produced a medical certificate to prove that he had Achilles tendinitis. Burrell is not only a long-standing friend of Lewis but is also signed up with an endorsement deal to the same gym shoe company, Nike.

Burrell's place should have been taken by the team's reserve runner, Tim Montgomery, but with NBC Television agitating for a weekend climax to its Olympic cover-

age, Lewis looks a certainty, despite having finished last in the 100 metres at the US Olympic trials.

He claimed that he was helpless before the demands of his public. There had been "millions" of people calling him, urging him to run.

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US finds terrorist training camps in Iran

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

IRAN operates a network of 11 training camps for foreign terrorists, according to classified US intelligence documents published yesterday.

American officials believe the terrorists who bombed US military targets in Saudi Arabia last November and again in June were trained in these camps. The FBI was said to be investigating whether terrorists with Iranian backing were responsible for the explosion that brought down TWA Flight 800 with the loss of 230 lives two weeks ago.

The documents show how Iran's network of state-sponsored terrorism has grown more sophisticated in the past year. According to them, the White House believes that two Saudi dissident groups linked to the recent bombings — the Organisation of Islamic Revolution and the Hezbollah of Hejaz — were trained at the Iran Ali camp in the suburbs of east Tehran, the largest of the 11 sites.

All the camps are designed to look like villages and feature houses, shops and mosques, but they are out of bounds to the public. The camps' existence was uncovered through satellite photos, radio and telephone wiretaps and visual confirmation by agents on the ground.

The trail of violence was said to lead directly to President Rafsanjani, with all acts of terrorism being approved by Iran's Supreme Council, of which he is the head. Iran denies it has training camps.

A recent conference in Tehran on terrorism is believed to have drawn groups and potential recruits from Libya, Algeria, Sudan, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Gaza and Saudi Arabia.

Middle East talks held in Ascot

The Israeli Prime Minister has had secret talks with King Hussein of Jordan about a total Middle East peace. They met in Ascot, outside London, last weekend, where the King was convalescing after an operation. Binyamin Netanyahu had spoken earlier to John Major. Page 12

King Rat's rogue terror unit disbanded by the UVF

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE Ulster Volunteer Force yesterday disbanded a rogue unit which has persistently called for an end to the loyalist ceasefire.

In a statement issued by ten armed, masked men, the leadership of the loyalist terrorist group announced that the unit from Portadown, County Armagh, had been stood down after an internal inquiry.

The unit, part of the UVF's mid-Ulster Brigade, is headed by a terrorist known as King Rat. He is widely believed to have sanctioned the murder of Michael McGoldrick, a Roman Catholic taxi driver, during the disturbances last month and he played a leading role in stoking up trouble during the standoff at Drumree. King Rat was also widely blamed for a hoax bomb attack at Dublin airport in the spring.

The statement said: "As a

result of a preliminary investigation into a Portadown unit... a decision has been taken by the Command Staff of the UVF to disband this unit as from 2nd August 1996. There will be on-going investigations by the internal affairs section of the UVF into the activities of this particular unit."



McGoldrick killed by gunman in his taxi

The dramatic move by the UVF leadership came after months of pressure from King Rat for a resumption of the terror campaign. The final straw came on Sunday when the Portadown unit launched an attack on the UVF leadership and on David Ervine, the main spokesman for the Progressive Unionist party, which is the UVF's political wing.

The UVF took its time to crack down on the rogue unit because King Rat has a devoted following in Portadown and the UVF will be acutely conscious of the dangers posed to itself and to its ceasefire by this latest move. However, the UVF is a ruthless organisation and it will have covered its tracks before acting.

The announcement yesterday will be greeted with relief in ministerial circles on both sides of the Irish border. There had been fears that the loyalist ceasefire was close to collapse.

Civil servants' sick leave costs £419m

By a Staff Reporter

HIGH rates of sick leave among civil servants are costing the taxpayer £419 million a year, MPs said yesterday.

Workers in the public sector took an average of nine days off ill each in 1994, according to a report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee. That was three days more than their counterparts in private firms but British business lost £10 billion through sickness in the same year.

The report highlighted the Land Registry, where staff took 2½ weeks off sick a year at their worst point, more than any other large Government department or agency. The Registry admits it allowed an increasingly serious problem "to get away from them" between 1988 and 1991, when absences shot up from 8.5 days to 13.2, and their performance suffered a "marked decline" relative to other departments. By 1994, the average rate of absence had fallen to 10.6 days

off, but this was still above average. Civil Service levels and cost the taxpayer £5 million. The Registry blamed the poor rates of absenteeism on its relatively high number of female and junior staff, who reportedly tend to take more time off sick. But the MPs said they found it "disturbing" that a number of staff with poor health records during probationary periods were kept on.

In a number of cases where staff were off work for a long time because of sickness, they were not interviewed at the appropriate time and written warnings were not always given when they should have been. But the MPs said they appreciated it could be difficult to distinguish between cases of "genuine sickness and malingering".

The Registry has now taken measures to tighten up, with sickness absence targets, a ban on smoking and a health screening programme.



ROUND THE ISLAND



ON THE ROCKS

COWES WEEK	5-18 August
2nd CHARNHILL TEST MATCH v PAKISTAN, READINGLEY	8-12 August
EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL	11-15 August
SILE CUT DIRT, RUGBY	15-18 August
CLAYDON PARK HORSE TRIALS	21 August-1 September
DUNDEE, BRITISH MASTERS, COLLINGTREE	5-8 September
THE ROYAL BIRMINGHAM GAMES OF BRAHMA	7 September
ST LEGER STAKES, DONCASTER	14 September
LAST NIGHT OF THE PRINCE, ROYAL ALBERT HALL	14 September
LE FESTIVAL AUX QUAT'S SAISONS, GREAT MALTON	1-8 October

Veuve Clicquot
CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON

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YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
FLIGHTS WITH VIRGINLabour launches battle of
beaches 'to nail Tory lies'By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR leaders armed themselves with posters, balloons, frisbees and sticks of rock yesterday to go into battle against what they called the "Tory lie machine". They pledged to fight the Conservatives on the beaches from Blackpool to Benidorm.

At the same time they denied they were sinking into the gutter with their foes and pledged to do nothing to disrupt the holidays of those who had left Britain to escape the political maelstrom.

In a foretaste of what may turn out to be the dirtiest of elections, Labour launched its "Same Old Tories, Same Old Lies" campaign to rebut the

claims made about Tony Blair's policies in the Conservative "New Labour, New Danger" offensive.

Dozens of expatriate Labour supporters in Europe's most popular sunspots will take up the cudgels, using party issue posters, balloons and rock. The aim is to nail what Labour says are Tory lies about its policies on tax, jobs, the unions, higher mortgages, law and order, constitutional reform and Europe.

A senior official promised that the campaigners would not force themselves on people who did not want to know them. It would be an "effective but unobtrusive" campaign. However, helpers in such far-flung outposts of the party as the Alicante North and Alicante

South branches, Benidorm, Ibiza and Majorca would be out in force.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, threatened yesterday to "expose, challenge and rebut" every lie uttered by every Tory politician. It was not, he said, descending into the gutter. "If someone comes up with a Tory lie, we have to answer them. We have to answer those arguments. But we do ask people to look beyond the gutter and then join us in the positive campaign."

The Tories suggested that Labour was in danger of turning off voters in a big way. A strategist said: "We think Labour will find this is the case with their Blackpool to Benidorm campaign. The

prospect of John Prescott trawling the beaches selling the message of New Labour could be highly favourable to us over the summer."

Charles Hendry, the party vice-chairman, said: "People go to Spain for sun, sea and Sangria, not Socialism."

Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign chief, said that neither Mr Prescott nor activists would be "patrolling" the beaches. "But we do have members and supporters overseas, and they will be taking the Labour message to those who want to receive it: which is that when you hear the Tories pouring out this propaganda, people must realise that it is the same old Tories with the same old lies, and they must reject them."

From rails to
riches, new
millionaires
await windfall

By JOANNA BALE AND JONATHAN PRYNN

A DINGY two-storey office block in Derby now houses one of the richest collections of employees in Britain. Six directors of the rail-leasing company Porterbrook were yesterday eagerly anticipating their windfalls from its controversial £825 million sale to Stagecoach.

Some 50 secretaries, clerks and administrative staff who bought stakes when the company was sold to them by the Government seven months ago will get £500,000 each. Derby's estate agents and luxury car dealers said yesterday that they were bracing themselves for a rush of newly rich customers, but few employees were willing to admit to plans for wild spending sprees.

While Sandy Anderson, Porterbrook's managing director, is no stranger to such riches, five men with humdrum management jobs will become multimillionaires if the Office of Fair Trading approves the deal.

Carolyn Cork, the wife of a

finance director who will receive about £18 million with his 3.88 per cent share of the company he joined two years ago, said he would continue to work. She lives with her 43-year-old husband, who earns about £80,000, in a rented house on a busy main road in Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

Mrs Cork, 43, said: "We don't know exactly how much we're going to get yet but I suppose it is a bit like winning the lottery. We're not going to go mad - I don't think it will change the way we live - but we haven't even been on holiday yet this year so that might change."

"We have a daughter at university and a son at boarding school, but we're not really well off. Ray's got enough money to retire on now but he's not going to give up work. I won't let him."

"This is just one of those things which comes along. Ray's done nothing wrong and he's always worked hard for what he's got."

Mr Cork's fellow multimil-



Sandy Anderson, whose sell-off of Porterbrook is not the first company deal to make him rich

lionaires include Tim Gilbert, 38, Porterbrook's engineering director, who will receive £11.78 million. He is a former British Rail engineer who has spent all his career in the rail industry on a modest salary.

Ian Cairns, 43, a commercial director, left the company last month after a disagreement with Mr Anderson but will retain his profits of several million pounds.

Peter Watson, 52, the chairman, has a 1 per cent stake valued at £4.75 million. Also due to receive several million is Geoffrey Arbutnot, a director of Charterhouse Development Capital, the merchant bank that provided £60

million of financial backing for the management buy-out.

Mr Anderson, 41, who will net the lion's share - £34 million - said there would be "no Ferraris" and that he had no plans for a holiday. "I am proud of being a Scot and the money will probably go back to Scotland," he said.

Mr Anderson, who earns £157,000 a year, has a knack for making fortunes. Already a wealthy man when the Porterbrook deal was signed last month, he was rich enough to buy a 70-acre stud farm in Nottinghamshire in his late 30s after an earlier successful management buy-out of a truck hire firm.

Europe ready to scrap beef deal

Continued from page 1
tions will be considered by the EU Standing Veterinary Committee around the start of September, when new demands will be drawn up.

Britain was due to begin implementing the selective slaughter programme on August 1, so that all animals which had developed BSE could be traced to their farm of origin, enabling the entire cohort to be identified and destroyed.

That programme has now been put on hold until veterinary experts in London and Brussels decide whether it will now be necessary to slaughter all of the offspring of infected cows as well, and for the eventual vote in the Commons. Veterinary experts are expected to concentrate their attention on how the disease is transmitted from mother to calf.

Herr Fischer said that while he understood the Gov-

ernment's reasons for postponing the selective cull, the decision would "have the effect of postponing further the reduction in the incidents of BSE which is a cornerstone in our policies." He added: "In any case, it will be necessary to consider the need for expanding the selective slaughter programme." Moreover, "we will need to consider what other implications this information may have from the step by step approach (for

lifting the ban) which was approved in Florence."

Sterling fell yesterday because of the developments. Concern among foreign exchange dealers that the ban on British beef may be prolonged sent the pound's trade-weighted index down 0.6 to close at 84.1, with falls against the US dollar and German mark.

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Conservative hopefuls
show sceptic bias

The Government's compromise on the single currency is under threat from new Conservative candidates standing at the general election, a survey by BBC2's *Newsnight* programme revealed last night. Two thirds said they could declare their opposition to a single currency in their election address. This contradicts the manifesto, which is expected to say that the Government is leaving its options open.

The BBC's political research unit interviewed 60 of the 79 new candidates standing in seats where there is a sitting Conservative MP. John Major and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, favour a compromise under which the Government would not rule out membership of a single currency, but would promise a referendum in the event of a decision by the Cabinet to go in.

Drug smugglers jailed

Four men who smuggled heroin worth millions of pounds from Turkey were jailed yesterday. The three Turkish Kurds and a Czech coach driver were caught by Customs officers with 198½ kg of the drug. At Southwark Crown Court, the senior figure, Muslim Simsek, was jailed for 30 years. Huseyin Kaynak for 24 years, and Tomas Noz, the coach driver, 26 years. They all denied the charges. Ali Aksu was jailed for 20 years after pleading guilty.

Record number in jail

The prison population in England and Wales rose to a record 56,238 this week. Richard Tilt, the Director-General of the Prison Service, said yesterday that the service faced an increased number of offenders being sentenced to prison and the extra prisoners had been accommodated within existing jails without using police cells. The latest figure is the first time that the prison population has risen above 56,000. A year ago the total stood at 51,549.

Eton drug dealer jailed

An Old Etonian who admitted dealing in cannabis and amphetamine after being caught by pupils at the school, was sent to a young offenders' institution for six months by Reading Crown Court yesterday. Thomas Seidler, 19, was caught by other schoolboys who gave chase after he was spotted by a housemaster in the grounds of Eton College. At the time, Seidler was studying at Warwick University where further quantities of the drugs were found.

Irish airports get £120m

The Irish Government will invest £120 million in Dublin and Shannon airports to cater for a big growth in travellers. The Transport Minister said yesterday that most of the money would be spent expanding Dublin airport, which recorded a million passengers for the first time in a single month in July. Over the next five years, the size of Dublin airport will grow by 60 per cent and a new passenger handling pier is to be built.

Sex change for priest

A monk has left his order so that he can change sex. Although "blessed" by the Pope, the former Dominican remains technically a priest. This has led to speculation that Sally, as he is now known, may be the first woman priest in the English Catholic Church. A spokesman said that under church and secular law the priest remained the sex he was at birth. The one other Catholic priest known to have had a sex change was in Italy.

Oasis album sells 3m

Oasis celebrated breaking the three million sales barrier with their current album just in time for the first of their sell-out summer concerts in Loch Lomond tonight. Singer Liam Gallagher, newly engaged to actress girlfriend Patsy Kensit, now has three reasons to celebrate. *(What's The Story) Morning Glory?* has sold three million copies in Britain, making it ten times platinum and one of Britain's top selling albums ever.

£6,500 for losing smile

A five-year-old girl who was "deprived of her smile" after a dentist failed to diagnose a tooth disease, was awarded £6,500 yesterday. Amy Taylor had suffered years of distress. Manchester County Court was told. The disease developed unchecked, rotting her baby teeth to blackened stumps, damaging them so badly that cosmetic surgery was impossible. Her mother, Marie Gerrard, agreed the "without prejudice" settlement with dentist Andrew Holland.

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'She is in a lot of pain and very upset, but she's a born fighter and we're proud of her'

Gladiators contestant paralysed in 20ft fall

BY ADRIAN LEE

A WOMAN was lying paralysed in hospital last night after a terrifying fall during rehearsals for the television series *Gladiators*. The contestant suffered serious spinal injuries while rehearsing for the combat game.

Nikki Claxton, 22, a university student, fell 20ft from climbing apparatus. She was one of eight female hopefuls selected from 22,000 applicants for the contest, broadcast by London Weekend Television.

Miss Claxton was flown to the spinal injuries unit at Sheffield Northern General Hospital after the accident at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Last night she was said to be suffering from partial paralysis, but doctors said there appeared to be no damage to the spinal cord and hoped she would recover.

A spokeswoman for LWT said: "Nikki was not competing against a Gladiator but was going through the motions on the Poleaxe apparatus, followed by a camera. She was dismounting and fell in an awkward way. Although she fell on to an air cushion, it was instantly realised she had hurt her back."

Miss Claxton, from Sheffield, has just completed the third year of a four-year business studies course at the city's Hallam University. Speaking from her hospital



Nikki Diamond, left, alias Scorpio, and Sharron Davies, who was dubbed Amazon, quit the show

bed Miss Claxton, who has been visited by her mother, father and boyfriend, paid tribute to St John Ambulance volunteers and TV crew members. She said: "I'm very grateful for the support and help they gave me. I really appreciate what they did."

Her mother, Patricia, said: "She is in a lot of pain and very upset. She has partial paralysis, but we are hoping she will be all right. Nikki had been looking forward so much to taking part in the programme and she is bitterly disappointed, but we are all proud of her. She is a born fighter and will be determined to get back to

peak fitness." Miss Claxton lifts weights with her boyfriend Phil Burditt, 24, a business studies student, and she cycles and runs each day. She had stepped up her training and passed stringent auditions before the three weeks of rehearsals and filming.

hospital earlier this year after plunging 30ft during the pyramid game and injuring her neck.

The 26-year-old, real name Diana Youdale, was forced to pull out of the new series last month, unable to compete in the gruelling training plan because of her injuries. She once dislocated the cartilage in her nose when her knee bounced up and hit her in the face after falling from the Poleaxe, the same stunt as Miss Claxton's accident.

Amazon, the former Olympic swimmer Sharron Davies, tore a knee ligament after a contestant landed awkwardly on her leg after they fell down the Pyramid. Helen Maderson, a former Miss Universe better known as Panther, suffered a bruised head and spine after being knocked 14ft off a moving platform by a contestant and landing flat on her face two years ago.

Ex-Gladiator Scorpio, real name Nikki Diamond, said after quitting last year: "We're all carrying injuries that we'll have for the rest of our lives."

Contestants have also suffered broken thumbs, bruised elbows and pulled muscles. A spokesman for LWT said: "We are fully aware of the dangers involved in this show and that's why we have a full medical team standing by. This is certainly the most serious accident on the show has had in its five years."



Nikki Claxton worked out every day to achieve her *Gladiators* ambition

Remand for Kray in drugs case

By STEWART TENDLER

CHARLES KRAY, elder brother of the twins Reggie and Ronnie, was remanded in custody yesterday accused of taking part in an alleged £78 million cocaine trafficking ring.

Mr Kray, 70, is accused of conspiracy to supply two kilos of cocaine worth £62,000, conspiracy to supply 520 kilos of the drug and conspiracy to supply a thousand Ecstasy tablets worth £20,000.

Two other men also appeared with Mr Kray yesterday at Redbridge Magistrates' Court, east London. Ronald Field, 49, a builder from Raynes Park, southwest London, also faces three similar charges. Robert Gold, 38, a builder from Wimbledon, faces two charges involving the cocaine. No application for bail was made and the three were remanded in custody until August 8.

The men were originally remanded for a month, but court officials had to stage a second brief hearing after they decided that the magistrates had power to remand defendants for only eight days on a first appearance.

The court was packed for the appearance of Mr Kray and the other defendants. Mr Kray was dressed in a charcoal-grey double-breasted suit, white shirt and a gleaming handkerchief in his breast pocket. As he stood in the dock he blew kisses to his girlfriend Julie Stirling, 45, in the public gallery.

Schoolboy arrested for theft in Singapore

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PUBLIC schoolboy is facing a possible jail sentence in Singapore after "high jinks" on a school rugby trip.

David Raven, 18, was arrested after being accused of stealing a handbag following "a prank" at a nightclub where he was at a party with friends during the three-week Far East rugby tour. Police said he was charged on July 13 with stealing the handbag and released on £2,300 bail. He is due in court on September 11 and no plea was taken.

The teenager, bailed after two nights in a Singapore jail, was described as a model student by his headmaster at the £3,900-a-year Arnold School in Blackpool, Lancashire. Bill Gillen, who flew out to meet the rest of the 30-strong party on the Australian leg of their tour, said: "David is an exemplary pupil and we have every confidence that the matter will be cleared up."

Mr Gillen said that the youth, who is facing a maximum three years in jail, was with his father at a Singapore hotel but was not allowed to leave the country. John Raven, of St Armes, Blackpool, who flew out to offer support, said his son's arrest was a case of mistaken identity.

The Foreign Office said that the incident was a prank: "It appears to have been high jinks rather than a pre-meditated theft."

1920s memories put missing path back on the map

By DIANA THORP

A PENSIONER has won a 25-year battle for official recognition of a lost footpath after a saga involving a stream of letters, bulldozers and gamekeepers with guns.

Signposts were erected last week along the mile-long path on the edge of St Leonard's Forest, Sussex. Peggy Gledhill, 77, first walked the path in 1928. During holidays with relations in nearby Horsham, she would be taken by her uncle to see wild deer.

She and her husband moved to Horsham in 1947 and used the path until 1970, when bulldozers cleared part of the area and the path was deemed private property.

Mrs Gledhill then began the battle to have her childhood walk put on the map. In 1979 the campaign appeared to have been defeated when gun-wielding gamekeepers forced her off the path and broke all the stiles along it.

The setback only made her more determined. "It is a wonderful area with a stream, masses of wildlife, rabbits, foxes and fish in a pond," she said.

Mrs Gledhill, now a widow, said the problem began in the 1970s when the land was bought by the water board and access to the pathway was denied. She was helped in her fight by knowledge that she gained while working as a cartographer for the Land

Registry 50 years ago. "I knew that to confirm it was a footpath it had to be on the Definitive Map," she said. "I went to the library and to my horror I found it was not on the map. But if you can prove it has been walked on before and it is accepted by the public as a right of way then it can get put on the map."

"I really started to battle hard from 1989 onwards when I retired from the Red Cross and had a lot more time on my hands. If I think something is right I will fight to the death for it."

Mrs Gledhill sent many letters to the council asking them to recognise the path, including a letter signed by 18 people who said they had uninterrupted use of it as a public right of way for 28 years. She also arranged for a letter from a former landowner who had allowed the path to be used. But the council lost the letter 15 years ago.

The rediscovery of the lost letter proved crucial and last year the rights of way subcommittee of West Sussex County Council agreed that the footpath should be brought back.

Although a slight detour has been made, Mrs Gledhill finally walked the path again on Tuesday. "It was very emotional. I am delighted," she said. The path will be on the next Ordnance Survey map of the area.

Scorned mistress calls her former lover to ordure

By ADRIAN LEE

A SCORNE mistress took revenge on her former lover by filling his car with stinking horse manure as he went to part-exchange it for a new P-registered model. Jane Jay yesterday described it as the best £1 she had spent.

Charles Flatman, an antiques dealer who incurred Miss Jay's wrath when she saw him with another woman, made the discovery shortly before he was due to trade-in his M-registered Ford Mondeo for a new one. The garage deducted £150 from the value of the second-hand car.

Miss Jay, 52, left the Victorian cottage home they had once shared in Stowupland, Suffolk, at dead of night. Carrying the two bags and their vile-smelling contents, bought from a roadside stall, she drove the ten miles to Mr Flatman's flat, in Eye. Using the spare set of keys to his car she quietly unlocked it.

"Then I just scattered this stuff inside. The car was very clean - he had obviously had it washed ready to trade in. Afterwards I locked it up and



Jane Jay, who filled Charles Flatman's car with horse manure as he traded it in for a new model

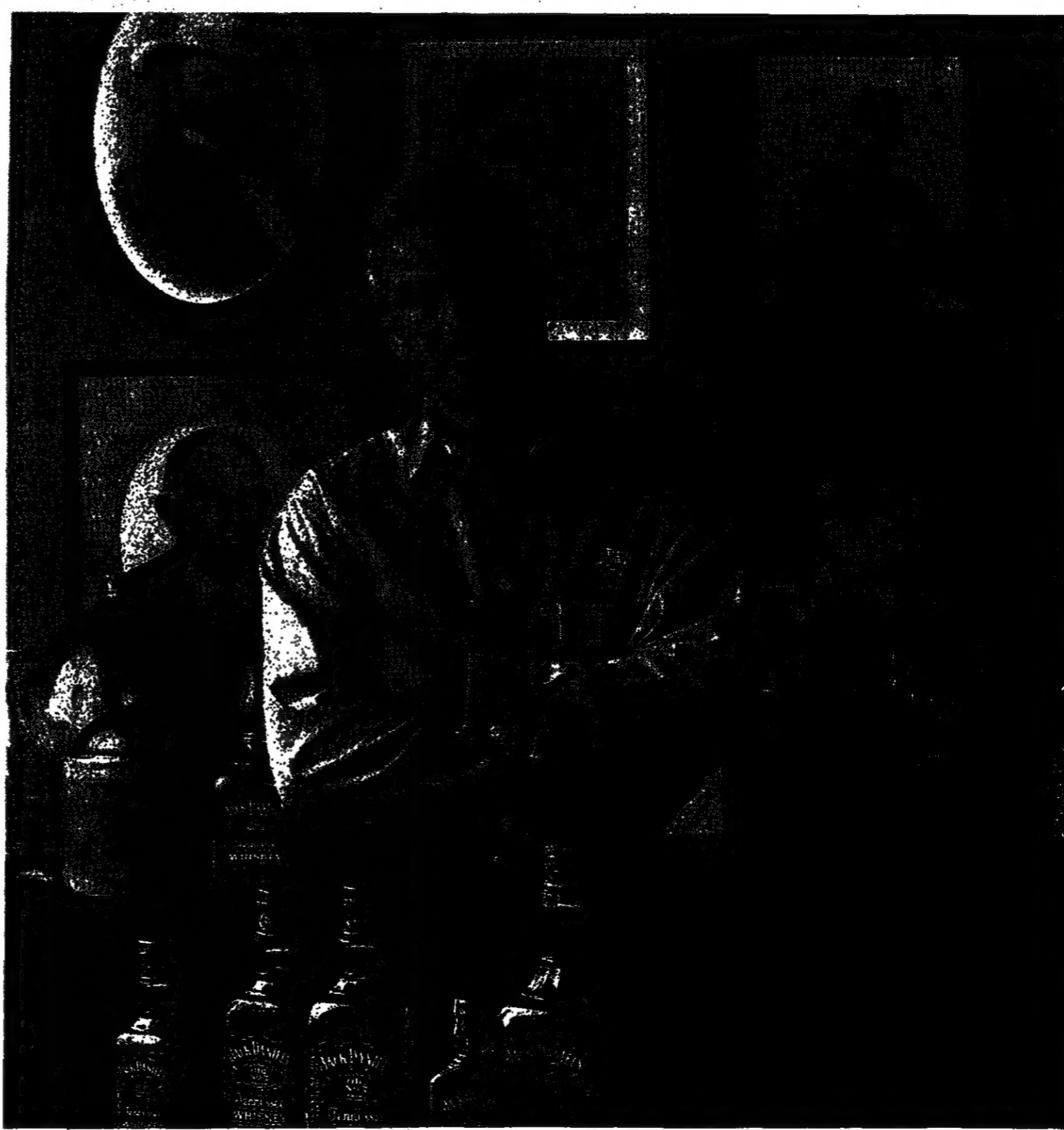


drove home. I felt great." She received a call from police next morning but Mr Flatman, a former mayor of Mid Suffolk District Council, decided not to press charges. He said yesterday: "You have to have a sense of humour about these things" as he pointed at straw still left on the road.

Miss Jay said she had pondered her best course of action for days. "He said I was not as much fun as the

other woman so I decided to show him that I can enjoy a good joke." She and Mr Flatman, 65, who specialises in antique porcelain, met nine years ago when both were district councillors and he was mayor.

"We became lovers and for eight wonderful years Charlie lived with me," said Miss Jay. But the relationship crumbled last year and she began plotting after she saw him with another woman.



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY



Workers were aged from 12 to 85 Farm raid reveals labour force of illegal immigrants

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS to be the perfect summer job for Siwan Kaur, crouched on a crate in a damp shed cutting and wrapping spring onions for market. The 65-year-old widow had already filled one box — 80 bunches for which she would receive £3 — when the sound of a helicopter heralded the end of her working day and the start of Operation Vesuvius.

The raid on Summer Farm, by officers from West Mercia Police and officials from the Immigration Service and the Benefits Agency, was the culmination of months of undercover work across the Midlands in which officers watched every move of an Asian "gangmaster" supplying labour to farms run by Simms and Wood Ltd.

At the same time as police raided the farm at Wyre Piddle, Hereford and Worcester, colleagues went to the home of Kamal Singh Samra, the alleged gangmaster, and seized a quantity of papers.

Police and the immigration officials were surprised at the number of casual workers involved in the packing opera-

tion. More than 100 Asian men and women were either in sheds or sitting outdoors, trimming, wrapping and packing. Thirty-one were arrested on suspicion of being illegal immigrants or working in breach of entry conditions, while more than 60 others were questioned about alleged benefit fraud.

Among those questioned was Manjit Singh, a priest at a Sikh temple in West Bromwich who had taken along his 13-year-old son as a casual worker. The youngest person questioned was 12 and the oldest 85.

Mrs Kaur said: "I was picked up at 5am this morning outside the temple. I got paid £3 for packing a box and take home about £10 a day." Asked if she found the work hard, she replied: "Work like this does not bother me. We are from farming people in India and are used to squatting in the fields."

Most of those detained were disarmingly honest about being in Britain illegally. One elderly man admitted that he came for a funeral seven years ago and had "forgotten to go

home"; another that he had come on holiday and stayed.

Immigration officials also confirmed the going rate for smuggling individuals from the subcontinent to Britain: £6,000. For £3,000, immigration racketeers will give them three attempts to cross the Channel from Europe.

Uddam Singh, 64, from Bedworth in the West Midlands, confessed immediately that he had arrived in Britain four months ago after being brought from India hidden in the back of a container lorry. He had borrowed money from relatives to pay the £6,000 fee. "I was one of many. We were dropped in Birmingham and my family picked me up."

The authorities concede privately that many people in rural England suspect that some of the casual labourers are illegal immigrants or involved in benefits fraud. Under existing legislation, little can be done. However next year, with the implementation of the Asylum and Immigration Act, the authorities will be able to prosecute anyone who knowingly employs an illegal immigrant.



The Bolero strawberry grows until October but has the flavour of June berries

Gene research bears fruit in a big way

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH horticulturists can already provide strawberries the size of apples and red-currants with bunches of fruit up to 8in long.

Their next big successes will include strawberries that fruit in the open until October, apples that will keep six or seven weeks longer and the world's first virtually thornless gooseberry to produce fruits of acceptable size. The shape of things to come in the fruit industry was unveiled in London yesterday at a conference boasting the work of Horticulture Research International (HRI).

"We can now produce strawberries up to 65mm in diameter, weighing about 30g," David Simpson, head of HRI's strawberry breeding programme, said. "That has been done by conventional breeding. With genetic modification it is possible that we will be producing berries so big you need a car to carry them home."

HRI's hopes in the strawberry fields are pinned on a variety called Bolero which fruits from July until October, yet has the quality found in berries borne in June. Some 20,000 plants are being grown in trials this year and there should be one million plants available to growers this winter for the variety's first commercial crop. Dr Simpson said that Bolero would have a

big impact on imports of late-season strawberries.

HRI also introduced the super-sized redcurrant, a variety called Redpoll. A third development on which British hopes ride is a purple dessert gooseberry called Pax, whose principal virtue is that its bushes are almost spineless.

Professor David James, head of HRI's fruit biotechnology group, said his scientists had managed to create cantaloupe melons and tomatoes which could be stored seven weeks longer by deactivating the gene producing ethylene, which speeds ripening. "Now we are hoping to transform the Queen Cox apple genetically." The research is being funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, which hopes the results will help the £40 million market for Cox apples fend off the growing threat from imported apples.

However, Professor Chris Payne, chief executive, said that all HRI's innovative research would be at risk unless there was a commitment to long-term funding. HRI has announced 57 redundancies from its 680 staff in the past two weeks because of government funding cuts, and is at present the subject of a government review.

Food and Drink
Weekend, page 37

Farmers protest at release of sea eagles

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A FRESH batch of rare white-tailed sea eagles is being released into the wild in Scotland in the next few days despite growing anger among farmers who claim the birds are killing livestock.

Ten chicks brought over from Norway are being set free at a secret location in the west Highlands. Four fledglings were released yesterday and the remaining six will be freed next week.

The move is part of an international conservation project started 20 years ago to re-establish them in Scotland. The birds disappeared from Scotland early this century after being shot as pests.

But farmers in the Inner Hebrides claim that the birds have killed large numbers of lambs in the past three years and say that the conservation agencies are not taking their concerns seriously. Bert

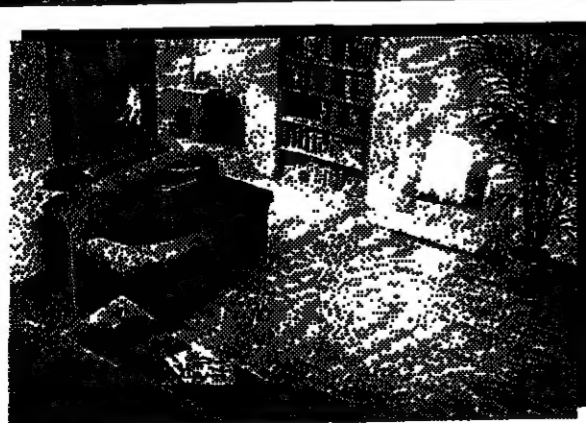


Sea eagle: ten set free

Leitch, the area president of the National Farmers Union, has threatened to shoot the predators if he catches them killing livestock.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Scottish Natural Heritage claim that efforts have been made to compensate farmers and divert the sea eagles with carrion. David Munns, of the RSPB in Edinburgh, said: "If any birds were shot it would be very sad. It would take us back to the 19th century and Victorian attitudes about the preservation of game and livestock." A killing of the bird, which is rarer than the golden eagle and has an 8ft wingspan, could lead to a £5,000 fine.

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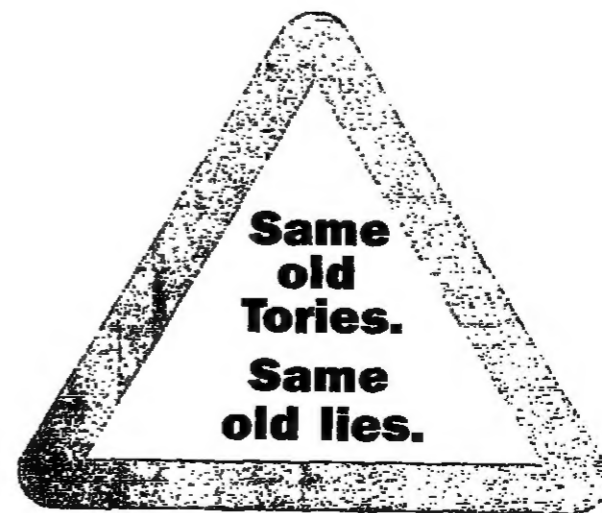
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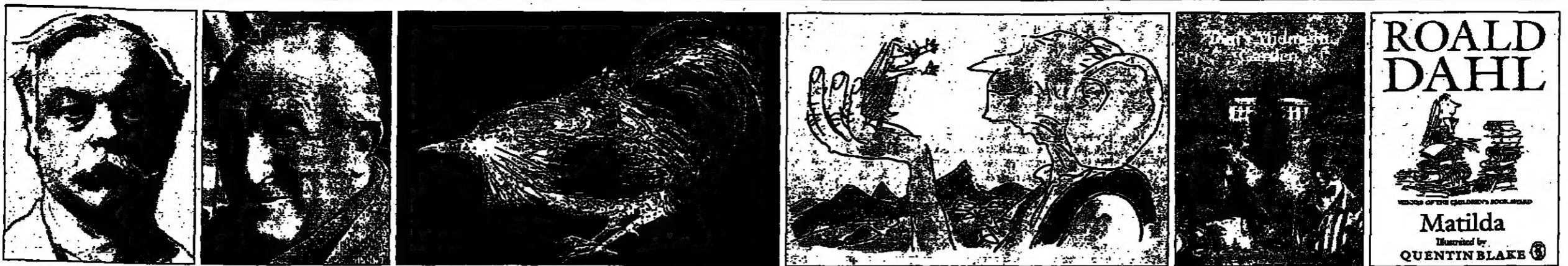
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Museum

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Original works now overseas include, from left, Kenneth Grahame, Tolkien and Brian Wildsmith. The museum hopes to have Quentin Blake's art, first and third from right, and *Tom's Midnight Garden*

Museum offers happy ending for children's books

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MUSEUM devoted to children's literature is being planned to stop manuscripts and illustrations being taken overseas and to provide a showcase for the best of British books.

The Centre for the Children's Book would provide an archive and exhibition centre. It would also have a café serving Winnie-the-Pooh's Cottleston Pie and other dishes featured in the pages of children's books.

The initiative is long overdue, according to publishers and authors, while Britain has produced

much of the greatest children's literature. It does not have an institution working to conserve contemporary manuscripts or artwork. Manuscripts of Kenneth Grahame and illustrations by E.H. Shepherd have gone overseas. Most of those created by Tolkien and C.S. Lewis are in Illinois. The Victoria and Albert Museum, however, acquired a Beatrix Potter collection. Canada, Australia and Japan have superior centres for children's books.

The idea for a British centre

came from Elizabeth Hamill, head of the children's department at Waterstone's book shop in Newcastle upon Tyne, who has judged many awards. She was saddened that other nations were "collecting the riches of our literary heritage which we appear not to value enough ourselves to preserve". Her colleague, Kimberley Reynolds, said that some publishers had shredded material because they had not appreciated its historical value.

Newcastle is being considered

as a site for the museum, and Ms Hamill has secured support from Northern Arts, the regional arts board, Newcastle City Council and Walker Books. On Monday, the Arts Council is to award a £27,000 National Lottery grant for a feasibility study.

The museum, which could cost up to £10 million, will focus on postwar writers and artists and exhibits will include preliminary sketches, letters and foreign-language editions. Philip Pullman, winner of this year's Carnegie Medal for children's literature,

is among writers who will donate manuscripts to the museum.

Mary Tapscott, managing director of Hodder children's books, said: "Britain has some of the best children's authors and artists in the world and that has been the position for a very long time. There is no one place where their work can be gathered for reference or to be admired. Macmillan donated *Alice in Wonderland* original blocks, from which the illustrations were taken, to the

British Museum: people get a thrill from looking at them. There is so much more wonderful visual material that could be gathered in one place."

She hoped to be able to donate some of Hodder's archives to the museum. "I would rather it was available for public view than sitting in archives. There are some very special things gathering dust."

Among manuscripts and illustrations the centre hopes to acquire are *Tom's Midnight*

Garden, Philippa Pearce's novel from 1958 with drawings by Susan Eynsek; *A Necklace of Raindrops*, fairy tales by Joan Aiken and Jan Pienkowski; and Quentin Blake's watercolours for Roald Dahl's *The BFG*. Dr Reynolds said that *BFG* "did not sell well until it was illustrated by Blake. It shows how pictures tell the story as powerfully as words."

Brian Wildsmith's innovative illustrations for his *ABC*, which the museum organisers would have liked, have been bought by the Japanese.

Books, Weekend, pages 10, 11

St Helena study shows benefits of television

By ADRIAN LEE

A STUDY of how the recent arrival of television has affected children on one of the world's most remote islands has suggested that it is doing more good than harm.

Until early last year, the 5,644 inhabitants of St Helena, in the South Atlantic, lived without the small screen. Early findings by researchers from the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education have confounded those who claim that exposure to violence, sex and 'bad language' on television corrupts children. Evidence of "pro-social" behaviour, defined as helping others and playing amicably, has increased.

Dr Tony Charlton, the study leader, said: "Before television arrived on the island, our research found that the children of St Helena were among the best behaved and least disturbed in the world. Fifteen months after television arrived those high rates of pro-social behaviour have not only been maintained but there are tentative indications that they have improved slightly. We blame television for a lot in this country, but perhaps we should be looking more closely at the role of the family."

Islanders can now receive the American satellite channel



CNN and the South African service M-net, which includes soaps and films. There is one soap for children, but no comedy programmes. The BBC's World Service Television is due to arrive shortly.

The study involves 59 pre-school children who will be monitored until they are 13, and all 800 children of first and middle school age.

St Helena, a British Crown colony, is the last English-speaking society to get television. Significantly, the researchers believe, most homes have only one set so parents can better control what their children watch.

Dr Charlton said: "Television gives children another reason to link up with their peers — they come to school and talk about what they have seen the night before. I think that can be the only explanation for the improvement."

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Invaders who left a cultural revolution in their wake

By ALAN HAMILTON

The first of a series that re-examines the course of the Roman occupation of Britain

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TODAY *The Times* begins a series to encourage readers towards the rediscovery of one of the most compelling and mysterious chapters of British history. We all think we know a little of the four centuries of Roman occupation, but in truth the sum total of our knowledge is frustratingly slender. Why such a series now? There is no conveniently rounded anniversary to mark, nor has there been a startling archaeological discovery to stand our previously held perception on its head. But there are subtle shifts at work. We always

see history from the perspective of the present, and in this much-changed world the view of Roman Britain is altering.

When Britain ran an empire we could easily, if not always accurately, grasp how other empires were run. Today, in this post-imperial age, the emphasis of scholarly interest has moved from where the legions marched and built their forts towards settlement and the assimilation of the native British into Roman ways. Aerial

photography, and much digging, has shown Roman Britain to have been much more widely peopled than previously thought, and the population estimate has been revised from two million to nearer four million.

We are also diluting the whole notion of conquest. There is a growing view that much of Britain welcomed the invader. Tribal chiefs saw advantage in parleying with Rome, and the moderately well-off Briton was not averse to a

bit of central heating and decent plumbing. By the 2nd century AD, the British as a whole were probably more enthusiastic members of the first European Union than they are of the present one.

A high degree of sophistication and order came early to Roman Britain. It is true that Iron Age Britain at the time of Christ was a place of some civilisation which knew intensive agriculture, money and brisk trade with the Continent. But the Romans brought with

them wisdom and expertise, particularly in architecture, engineering, military organisation and cuisine, that was not matched again until the modern age.

Professor Peter Salway, author of *The Oxford Illustrated History of Roman Britain*, believes that ancient Rome has lessons for modern Brussels. "In the early days of the empire and of Roman Britain, there was no bureaucracy and they well understood the principle of subsidiarity, with ad-

ministration and tax collection decentralised. In the later empire, a huge civilian bureaucracy grew up which possibly contributed to its collapse: too much burden on the taxpayer, too much tax evasion, too many people beginning to wonder, 'Is it all worth it?'"

Fourth-century Roman Britain was peaceful and prosperous. By the early 5th century it was descending to the condition of Yugoslavia, a simmering pan of little kingdoms at each other's throats.

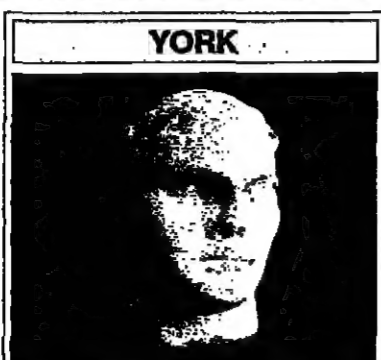
We hope to show in the coming days, as we explore the wealth of Romano-British remains and the many increasingly excellent museum displays, that this is a period of our history that can still intrigue and surprise, and will continue to do so as we unravel its mysteries.

Posters of the map below will be available to *Times* readers for £1. Application forms will be published during the next two weeks.

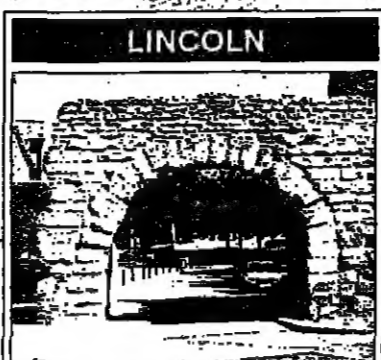
On Monday: Hadrian's Wall and Chichester



ANTONINE WALL
Rome's brief forward frontier, a 38-mile turf defence built between the Forth and the Clyde, completed in AD 142, and still visible as a line of mounds and ditches across central Scotland.



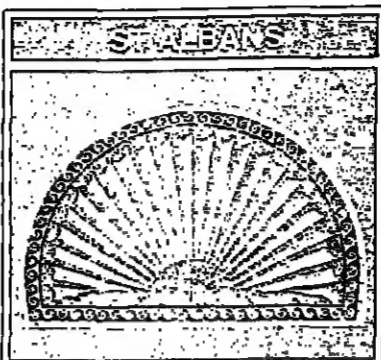
YORK
Roman Eboracum, chief city of northern Britain, legendary fort and bustling, cosmopolitan, affluent centre of trade. Emperor Severus died here and another, Constantine, was proclaimed here.



LINCOLN
Roman Lindum, still showing substantial sections of its 1st century defences, including the only complete Roman arch still standing in Britain. A fort that quickly became a thriving civilian town.



COLCHESTER
One of Rome's first British conquests, Camulodunum was entered in triumph by the emperor Claudius accompanied by elephants. Razed to the ground by Queen Boudicca in AD 61.



ST ALBANS
The Roman Verulamium, third largest city of Britain, and still in an unusually good state of preservation, displaying the best amphitheatre in Britain despite attacks by Queen Boudicca of the Iceni.



CIRENCESTER
The Roman Corinium, capital of the Celtic tribe of the Dobunni, was briefly a garrison on the invaders' western front which developed into a large civilian town with amphitheatre seating 6,000.



CHESTER
Deva was the largest Roman fort in Britain, headquarters for the conquest of North Wales and a major port on the Dee. Its medieval walls and street pattern, largely intact, mirror the original Roman layout.



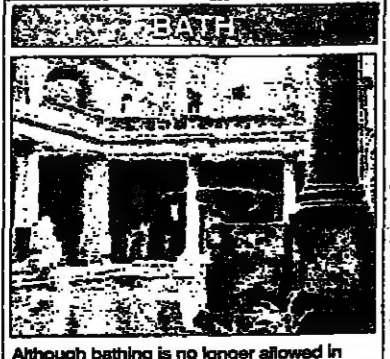
WROXETER
Transformed on the orders of the visiting emperor Hadrian from a military fort into what became Viroconium, the 4th largest Romano-British town, with a bath-house as big as a Norman cathedral.



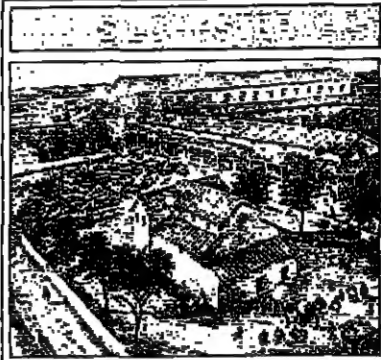
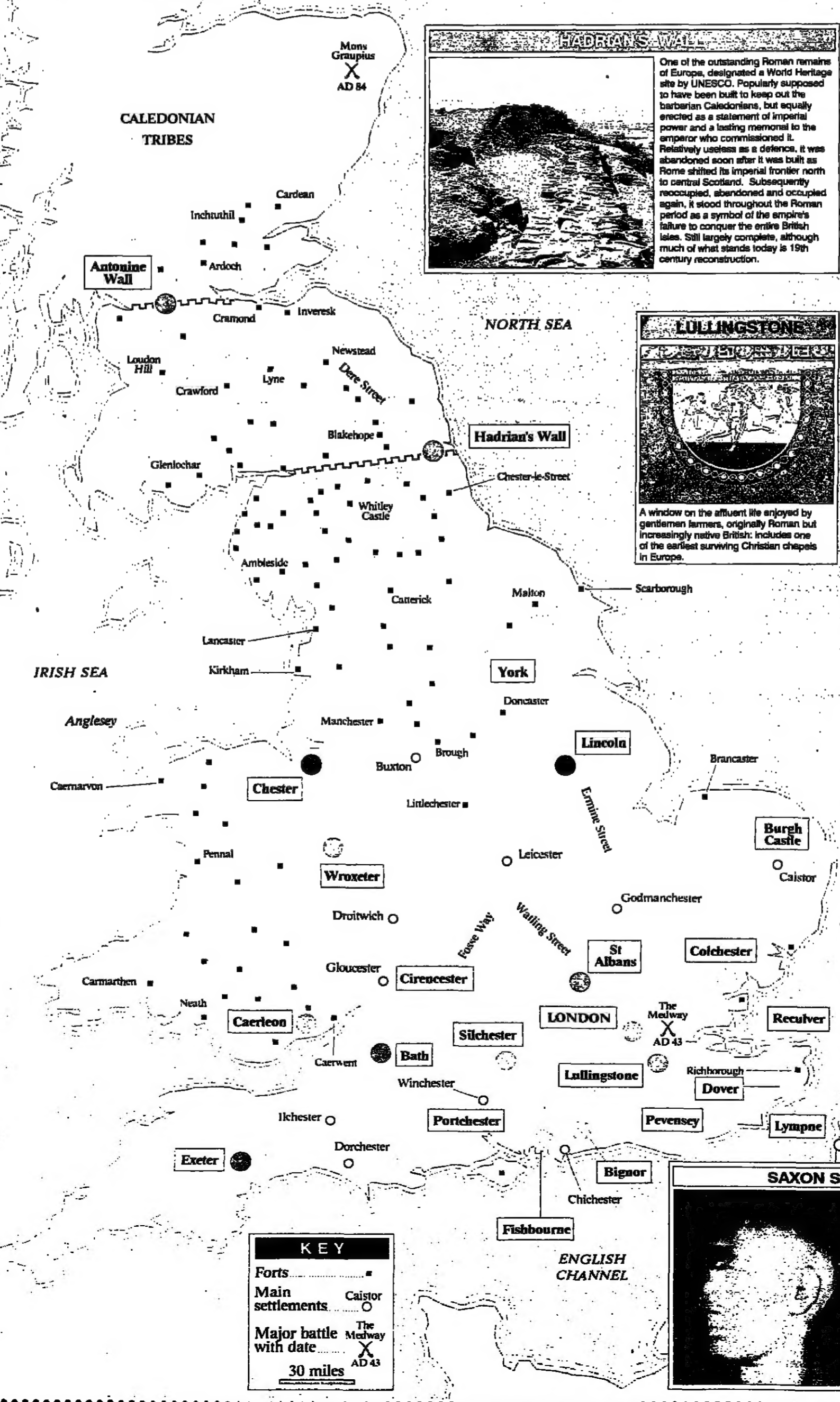
CAERLEON
One of the three great legionary strongholds in Britain, Caerleon was built to withstand attack by the marauding Welsh, and survived long after the Romans' departure as the principal port of south-east Wales.



EXETER
Although much of historic lace, the western limit of Roman occupation, was destroyed in wartime bombing raids, three-quarters of the great Roman walls have survived.



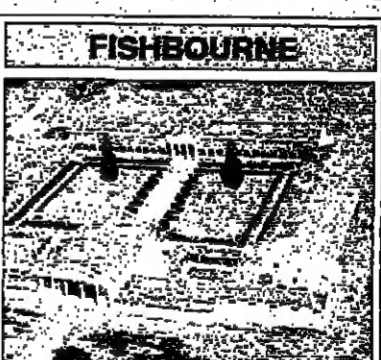
BATH
Although bathing is no longer allowed in the spectacular open-air pool at Aquae Sulis, it still provides an arresting centrepiece to the complex of Roman baths from which the modern city takes its name.



HADRIAN'S WALL
One of the outstanding Roman remains of Europe, designated a World Heritage site by UNESCO. Popularly supposed to have been built to keep out the barbarian Caledonians, but equally erected as a statement of imperial power and a lasting memorial to the emperor who commissioned it. Relatively useless as a defence, it was abandoned soon after it was built as Rome shifted its imperial frontier north to central Scotland. Subsequently reoccupied, abandoned and occupied again, it stood throughout the Roman period as a symbol of the empire's failure to conquer the entire British Isles. Still largely complete, although much of what stands today is 19th century reconstruction.



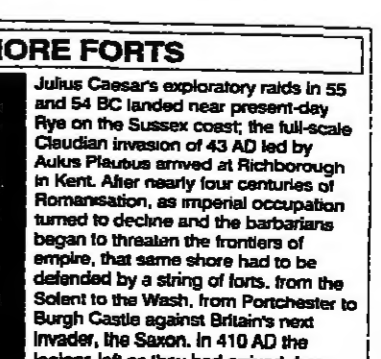
LULLINGSTONE
A window on the affluent life enjoyed by gentlemen farmers, originally Roman but increasingly native British, includes one of the earliest surviving Christian chapels in Europe.



BIGNOR
One of the first Roman sites in Britain to be subject to serious archaeological excavation. In 1811, the early diggers unearthed a series of superb mosaics, magnificently preserved and still in excellent condition.



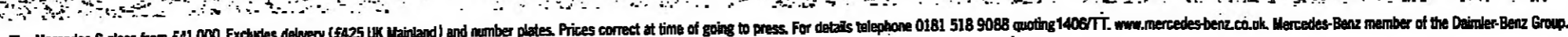
FISHBOURNE
The presumed seat of client king Cogidubnus, Fishbourne was the most sumptuous 1st century Roman palace in Europe outside Italy, and there rivalled only by Nero's magnificent Golden Palace.



LULLINGSTONE
Capital of the Roman province of Britannia, its wealth of remains is briefly uncovered and lost again each time a City block is redeveloped. Excellent new Roman galleries at the Museum of London III in the gaps.



SAXON SHORE FORTS
Julius Caesar's exploratory raids in 55 and 54 BC landed near present-day Rye on the Sussex coast; the full-scale Claudian invasion of 43 AD led by Aulus Plautius arrived at Richborough in Kent. After nearly four centuries of Romanisation, as imperial occupation turned to decline and the barbarians began to threaten the frontiers of empire, that same shore had to be defended by a string of forts, from the Solent to the Wash, from Portchester to Burgh Castle against Britain's next invader, the Saxon. In 410 AD the legions left as they had arrived, from their original beachhead at Richborough on the Kent coast.



BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A five-cell embryo due to have been destroyed

A spokesman for the Catho-

Cardinal Thomas Winning, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, has led a call for an end to the mass production of frozen embryos. The Pope has also appealed for the production of human embryos to be halted because there is "no morally licit solution regarding the human destiny of the thousands and thousands of frozen embryos which are and remain the subject of essential rights and should therefore be protected by law

A vial containing human embryos is taken from a freezer before their destruction

the human life that they were."

Challenged that this view might surprise some people, the cardinal added: "I think it's one thing to actively kill somebody, it's another to let that person die. I mean, what else can you do with them? They are there, and you are

not obliged, it seems to me, to take extraordinary means to keep them alive, and the natural thing for them would be to die." He said the situation represented "an appalling dilemma", but people must not be blind "to the fact that every day we are getting rid of human life through abortion".

By Dominic Kennedy
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

One woman obtained an injunction against the Cromwell Hospital in southwest London, where the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was conceived, with less than five hours before the deadline on Wednesday night. A High Court judge granted a three-week delay to the destruction of the frozen embryo.

The couple have since become estranged and the man has yet to complete a consent form authorising the continued storage of their embryos. Clinics have been told by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority that they must have explicit written consent from both parents to keep the embryos alive.

The woman's solicitor, Graham Ross, says that, because the man

Dr Kamal Ahuja said: "The lady was very anxious, and understandably so. We couldn't do anything because her consent had to be joint consent with her husband." Dr Ahuja, whose clinic expects to take a fortnight to destroy all its frozen embryos, ensured that hers was

At Bourn Hall fertility clinic in Cambridgeshire, Peter Brinsden, the director, has put one embryo aside after the mother said she was considering taking out a restraining order. He received a fax yesterday morning from a couple with all the consent forms correctly signed — 24

There are understood to be two more cases nationwide of people seeking injunctions to save their embryos, including one where the sperm was provided by a donor who cannot be traced. Mr Ross believes all clinics should halt destruction until the issues are decided by a court in three weeks' time, but most appear to be continuing, after seeking advice from the authority.

**A sister's gift,
Magazine, page 14**

Rob Marshall

of a fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy; others as a prefiguration of the Second Coming; it has even been suggested that the Transfiguration is a misplaced resurrection ac-

We can look forward with joy and in faith to the Resurrection — to salvation — but, like Christ Himself on the mountain, we must deal first with the suffering around us. It is that which we ask God to transform daily in the words of the Lord's Prayer, which recalls the divine glory of the Transfiguration: "for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory".

The Transfiguration speaks to us as disciples of the risen and ascended Lord. He has gone before us into Heaven to intercede for us. When we look to Him in glory we remember His teaching. His example and the events of His life. We vividly reflect on the *via dolorosa* — the

path of suffering — and pray that God might change and transform our lives and beings in the same way that He transformed and guided Christ through Calvary and beyond.

The Rev Rob Marshall is the author of The Transfiguration of Jesus (DLT 1995) and priest-in-charge of St Augustine's, Queens Gate, London.



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Britannia graces Cowes Week for the final time

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE nation's premier sailing regatta opens at Cowes today with the Royal Yacht Britannia lending her regal presence for the 34th and last time.

Dressed overall and still looking immaculate, despite her 43 years and 1.25 million miles, Britannia will play host in the coming days to the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones, the Princess Royal, Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy. On Wednesday morning she will make her final departure, accompanied by an expected flotilla of 1,000 yachts and small craft, heading for Portsmouth to collect the Queen for her annual Western Isles cruise.

A political head of steam is already building up for a decision on a replacement vessel. At least four serious

proposals have been aired, from a sail training ship to a luxury cruise liner, but no announcement is expected for several months.

In an interview with *The Times* on board yesterday, Commodore Tony Morrow, Britannia's commanding officer, refused to be drawn on the question of a new royal yacht, but he disclosed that the present one would have an unusually busy end to its working life next year.

Plans are being drawn up to send the vessel on an extensive tour of the Far East in a combination of royal visits and trade missions, culminating in an appearance in Hong Kong harbour with the Prince of Wales for the hand-over of the colony to China next July. The Queen will be able to enjoy one final Hebridean

cruise next August before the vessel is decommissioned.

Commodore Morrow said that an acceptance by the crew of the ship's fate was tinged with sadness. "There is a very strong feeling for Britannia as part of the Cowes scene; it is a continuation of the royal connection and patronage that Cowes has enjoyed for 170 years."

Last year Britannia had royal family members on board for only 22 days, and spent a further 14 on trade missions. The vessel had been a unique and potent advertisement for Britain, particularly in its trade mission role. Commodore Morrow said: "Important people will not necessarily go to a trade conference in an hotel, but will always come to Britannia. Out of that comes contacts, and even contracts."

Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, disclosed in the Commons recently that Britannia costs £21,000 a day to run. Her fate was sealed by his predecessor Archie Hamilton, who announced that the vessel needed a £17 million refit in Portsmouth dockyard, and that the Government was not prepared to pay for it. The figure has since been challenged by private dockyards who claim they could carry out the work for much less.

There will be no redundancies among her 260-strong crew when Britannia is decommissioned. Most will be dispersed to other navy post-



Commodore Morrow on Britannia, riding at anchor in Cowes harbour, below. Photographs: Gill Allen

ings. Others, including Commodore Morrow, will retire with the ship.

For the moment, however, Britannia rides at anchor in Cowes harbour, bestowing an air of distinction on an event that was in danger of losing its glamour until the insurance company Skandia Life offered a £1.5 million sponsorship deal over three years. Next year, with no royal yacht, Cowes will have to work a little harder for its glamour.

Leading article, page 21



Taxi driver jailed for 'revenge'

The first person to be tried in an English court for "taking revenge" has been jailed for 12 months by Southwark Crown Court. Peter Gay, 38, a taxi driver from Whitechapel, east London, had deliberately tried to run over a journalist who had given evidence against him in another court hearing. Gay, who was also convicted of dangerous driving, was banned for two years and will have to retake his driving test.

Commune threat

Guinness has been granted court orders paying the way for the eviction of a commune from 13 acres of derelict land owned by the company in Wandsworth, southwest London. The commune, containing about 40 people, calls itself Pure Genius.

Ulster loses out

An international conference on computer security has been switched from Belfast to the Irish Republic after delegates worried about their safety cancelled their plans. The organisers of Computer Security Audit and Control blamed civil unrest.

Gang raids pub

Hooded robbers armed with a sawn-off shotgun, handguns and a Samurai sword ordered customers and staff on to the floor of the Brig pub in North Shields, Tyne and Wear, and stole cash from the till. One man was treated in hospital for cuts.

Guerin film plan

The Disney Corporation wants to make a film about Veronica Guerin, the Irish journalist murdered in June after writing about criminals in Dublin. It has asked her husband, Graham Turley, for co-operation. An American writer is researching the plot.

'Toyboy' groom

Michael Radcliffe, 29, has married Muriel Wilde, 76, a widowed grandmother and friend of his mother's, after a three-month romance. Mr Radcliffe, an undertaker from Stockport, Greater Manchester, said: "I have always preferred older girls."

Russian crew sails into regatta history

A RUSSIAN crew will sail into Cowes today aboard one of the most spectacular yachts to appear at the regatta, the 80ft *Grand Mistral* (Kathryn Knight writes). The new £15 million boat, which will compete with four others in the Maxi class, is the first Russian-crewed entry in the regatta's 170-year history.

Sue Fielden, deputy secretary of Cowes Combined Clubs, the regatta organiser, said that the 12-man Russian

crew had a reputation as good seamen. "The boat they are in will be one of the most impressive in the whole of Cowes Week. We are delighted they have entered. It may have taken 170 years, but we hope it is the first of many such entries."

The crew will attend a party at the Royal Yacht Squadron, of which the Duke of Edinburgh is admiral. He will race with King Constantine of Greece.

Time to go out on a wing in search of cheaper chicken cuts

BY ROBIN YOUNG

LAST August it was easy to find chicken breasts at £2.99 a lb. This year it is more likely to be £3.99, and that only on special offer. Whole chickens were £3.99 for 2.3kg last year. Expect to pay £4.95 or more now. It is worth considering cheaper cuts, such as wings and drumsticks, or alternatives such as fish, Quorn or game. Promotions include:

Asda: Fresh turkey steaks £4.38 a kg, large chicken £1.99 a lb, beef

topside with fat £5.57 a kg, seedless grapes 79p a lb, nectarines/peaches 99p a punnet.

Boag's: Skinless chicken breast fillets £3.99 for 500g, pork and leek sausages 70p for 400g, new English potatoes 9p a lb.

Co-op: Pork ribs in barbecue marinade £1.69 for 425g, roast topside beef £1.39 for 113g, chilli quarter-poulters £1.29 for four.

Bewhurs: £1 off any purchase of £10 or more.

Harrods: Artichokes marinated in

balsamic vinegar £2.25 for 100g, pineapple and scallop kebabs £4.49 each, Brie de Nangis cheeses £9.74 a kg, English courgettes 40p lb.

Iceland: Chicken breasts £4.49 for 900g, mushroom and garlic filled chicken £1.49 for two portions, had-dock steaks in batter £3.49 for six, broccoli mix £1.19 for 907g, mandarin cheese cake £1.49 for 500g.

Marks & Spencer: Leg knuckle

£4.99 kg, skinless salmon fillets £8.99 for six, cherries £1.99 for 450g, English blackberries £1.49 for 200g, 50p off all premium ice creams.

Morrisons: Pork chops £1.89 a lb, topside/silver-side £1.99 a lb, fresh tuna loin £4.35 a lb, fresh shark loin £2.75 lb, whole cleaned salmon £1.69 a lb, Galia melons 69p each, salad onions 29p a bunch.

Sainsbury: Pork and beef sausages

79p for 454g, crumbed ham 59p 1/2 lb, chicken breast fillets £4.15 for 595g, Country Farmhouse mature cheddar £1.99 lb, white seedless grapes 99p lb, large mangoes 98p each.

Sainsbury's: Beef topside £4.79 a kg, silver-side £6.59 a kg, whole chicken £4.95 for 2.3kg, turkey steaks £4.19 for six, broccoli 49p a lb, courgettes 49p a lb.

Somerfield: Skinless chicken breast

fillets £4.45 for 520g, fillet steak £14.95 kg, lumpfish caviar £1.89 for 100g, lean Danish ham £2.29 for 40

slices, cos lettuces 49p each, peas 79p lb. Tesco: Skinless chicken breast fillets £5.65 for 540g, fresh whole chicken £3.49 for 1.4 kg, sirloin steak £9.89 a kg, lamb loin chops £7.49 a kg, cod fillet £1.95 a lb, rainbow trout £1.87 a lb, broad beans 49p lb, courgettes 49p a lb.

Waitrose: Chicken breasts £3.49 for 530g, Aberdeen Angus ground

steaks £2.49 for 500g, mange-tout £1.29 for 250g, marrow 59p each, peaches 99p for eight.

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Thought for the day

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Somali warlord leaves behind legacy of chaos

THE Somali warlord, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, who forced the combined American and United Nations forces into a humiliating retreat in 1993, reduced his country to chaos and exploited famine for financial gain, has died from bullet wounds after a battle in the south of the capital, Mogadishu.

His spokesman in Washington said he died of a heart attack at his home on Thursday while undergoing surgery for the gunshot wounds after a clan battle the previous weekend. To his Habbre Gedir clan, the general, whose name means "man of steel", was a national hero. To his enemies, he was a monster.

To outsiders he was the epitome of the Somali character: witty, intelligent, unpredictable, charming, ruthless, brave and treacherous. I first met the Soviet and Italian-trained general in December 1991, a month after fighting broke out between the Habbre Gedir clan, in south Mogadishu, and their rivals, the Agbali, in the north. Sitting at his feet in his house, as the city was randomly shelled by both sides, he told me he had just formed a new government. "What will be the first stage of your economic recovery programme?" he was asked. "Tourism... we have



Charming but crafty. General Aidid wanted to lead Somalia but was happy to make a fortune from the woes of his people, Sam Kiley writes

the longest beaches in Africa," he replied, as a mortar crashed in the garden.

Born in central Somalia, Aidid always flashed a confident smile. His air of optimism never left him, even when he almost lost control of his band of wild Somali bush-fighters who overran Mogadishu in January 1991 and drove Mohamed Siad Barre, the former President, from power. His confidence was not destroyed when civil war broke out between their two factions, nor during the four months in 1993 when commandos of the US Delta Force sought to arrest him.

His driving ambition was to be Somalia's head of state, and since 1991 he thrice declared himself President. But he never had the interests of ordinary Somalis at heart.

During the 1992 famine, he made a fortune from aid through his involvement in protection rackets. I met him then in Baldeera on the Juba river in southwest Sudan. I had stepped over the

bodies of teenagers who had starved to death, and then watched his militia loot supplies for a feeding centre run by the UN Children's Fund.

With the cries of hungry children ringing in my ears, I asked him how he could sit back on his velvet cushions as his people died. He ordered a flunkie to bring freshly squeezed watermelon and lemon juice. "It is the UN. They are not sending enough food. I want only peace and reconciliation," he said, flashing that smile.

More than 350,000 Somalis died in the famine, but for Aidid and other warlords it was a money-spinner. The racket was so obscene that George Bush, then US President, sent 28,000 Marines into Somalia that December, with support from 7,000 UN troops.

General Aidid saw the invasion as another chance for gain. US envoys found themselves having to deal with him, lending him a legitimacy he did not deserve. His main financier, Ali Hassan Osman



Muhammad Farrah Aidid, left, with a rival warlord, Ali Mahdi Muhammad, in Mogadishu in 1992. A civil war has raged in Somalia since 1991

"Ato", earned the Habbre Gedir clan millions of dollars from contracts to build camps for the US and UN troops.

In June 1993, his men killed 28 Pakistani peacekeepers, after they tried to police a disarmament programme, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. For the next three months, General Aidid lived a

charmed life: even when his home was flattened in a US air raid, he escaped unhurt. I wandered through his wrecked bedroom. In a cupboard, I found at least a year's supply of toothpaste. I could not help feeling we would see that awful smile again.

In October, his men killed 18 Delta Force soldiers in an

eight-hour battle, and President Clinton lost heart in Operation Restore Hope, ended the Aidid manhunt and soon after withdrew US forces.

The end of the UN mission to Somalia, in March last year, provoked a split between General Aidid and Mr Ato, and clan infighting broke out. Since then hundreds have

died: the latest victim is the general himself, who was buried in south Mogadishu on Thursday. He was 59.

Mr Ato, an equally urbane and ruthless man, claimed at the time of the split that Somalia would be destroyed on the arrival of General Aidid's ambition.

It now remains to be seen

whether Mr Ato will be able to make peace with the general's rivals in the north of Mogadishu — yesterday they offered a unilateral ceasefire — or whether he, too, will revert to the Somali national character. Mr Ato also flashes a broad smile.

Obituary, page 23

Priebke faces German trial

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME AND MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

FORMER SS Captain Erich Priebke was held in an Italian jail yesterday as Germany confirmed it would seek his extradition. If it goes ahead, he faces a new trial over the massacre of 335 civilians in Nazi-occupied Rome.

An Italian military court set off worldwide protests on Thursday when it found the 63-year-old former Nazi guilty of taking part in the 1944 reprisal killings, but cleared him of acting with cruelty and premeditation on the ground that he was following orders. By a majority of two to one, the court ordered Priebke to be released because its ruling put the crime beyond the statute of limitations.

Priebke was re-arrested early yesterday by Italian anti-terrorist police without ever leaving court after the authorities issued a provisional warrant based on a request from Rome's Regina Coeli prison after Giovanni Maria Flick, the Justice Minister, intervened to prevent his release. In Dortmund, prosecutors

were optimistic about his extradition. It would make the first time that a Nazi war crime suspect had been returned to face charges in Germany from another EU country. Last year Germany failed to get Priebke returned from his home in Argentina.

Under German law, Nazi crimes and the killing of hostages are not covered by the regular 30-year statute of limitations. If found guilty of

murder by a German court, he could face anything from 15 years to life imprisonment.

Hundreds of angry Jewish demonstrators and relatives of massacre victims had besieged the courtroom and clashed with police for seven hours, preventing Priebke and Judge Agustino Quistelli, head of the tribunal, from leaving the building.

Priebke had hoped to return to Argentina, from where he



Erich Priebke is taken from court after his re-arrest

was extradited to Italy in November. But Buenos Aires said yesterday it would not allow him back.

The decision to hold Priebke in Regina Coeli soothed public opinion, partly because many of the massacre victims were selected from the prison.

President Scalfaro received relatives of the victims at the Quirinal Palace to express his solidarity with their outrage over the verdict. "If the application of the law does not respect man and history it is no longer law," he said.

Rome said that Priebke could remain under arrest for 40 days while Germany arranged extradition.

Italian members of parliament stood for a minute of silence on Thursday night and Rome switched off lighting at leading monuments.

Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, expressed "extreme bitterness", and Gianfranco Fini, the post-Fascist National Alliance leader, said the verdict "offends the conscience of all Italians".

Leading article, page 21

West Bank go-ahead for settlers

BY ROSS DUNN

ISRAEL yesterday gave the green light to an expansion of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to more than two million Palestinians.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, said that Palestinians had been allowed to increase their numbers freely, while Jews in the territories could not even be assured of building a kindergarten. It was time to end this discrimination against some 130,000 Jewish settlers, he declared.

Under the plan, applications to build inside existing settlements can be approved by the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister instead of a committee. The building of any new settlements would require special approval by the full Cabinet.

But Labour party critics of the Government said the real plan was to settle more Jews in areas which once formed the biblical land of Israel.

Netanyahu and Husain meet secretly in Britain

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, secretly met King Hussein of Jordan in Britain last weekend to discuss plans for a total Middle East peace.

Mr Netanyahu spoke to John Major for 25 minutes last Friday before setting off for Britain to meet the King, who was convalescing at his home in Ascot, outside London, after an operation.

Abed al-Karim Kabariti, the Jordanian Prime Minister, and Mr Netanyahu's close advisers also took part in the talks with the King. Their discussions centred on how to advance the peace process between Israel and Syria. Mr Netanyahu's plan first to make peace with Lebanon before a pact with Syria was also discussed.

As a result of the meeting, King Hussein is visiting Syria today. The trip, earlier than scheduled, is his first official visit to Damascus since he signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994. The King and

the Israeli leader had wanted to keep the meeting private, so as to give the impression that the Jordanian monarch was meeting President Assad of Syria before Mr Netanyahu's trip to Jordan on Monday for a second round of talks.

Mr Netanyahu, apparently, did not even inform his Cabinet at last week's regular meeting about his visit to London. The Hussein-Netanyahu meeting appears to have breathed fresh life into the peace process.

On Thursday, shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Jordan gathered pace when Dore Gold, Mr Netanyahu's foreign affairs adviser, visited Amman to prepare for the Israeli leader's visit. Dr Gold met Mr Kabariti and Crown Prince Hassan, who demanded that Israel honour a series of pledges, relating to water and financial issues, made at the time of signing their 1994 peace treaty. Jordan wants Israel to make it easier for its goods to be transported to the

West Bank, as well as to implement the water allocation agreement stipulated in their pact.

On Thursday, Mr Netanyahu met Dan Meridor, his Finance Minister, to discuss ways to meet Jordan's demands. The Israeli leader said he gave high priority to relations with Jordan and wanted the sticking points resolved. Mr Netanyahu's office also said that he favoured establishing a free-trade zone with Jordan, with the help of the United States.

Both Syria and Mr Netanyahu's office, meantime, denied reports that President Assad had sent an envoy to Israel last month to discuss prospects for peace.

A Jerusalem Post report yesterday said an unnamed US citizen with strong Syrian connections met an official of Mr Netanyahu's office in mid-June during a private visit. He then went to Damascus, where he apparently met senior Syrian officials.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY AUGUST 3 1996

Former directors of Dunn & Co sued for £8m

By Jon Ashworth

DUNN & CO, the menswear group known for its hats and braces, has been caught up in an unseemly spat involving lawyers, accountants and irate landlords. The former directors of the menswear group are being sued for £8 million over steps allegedly taken to protect the company pension fund from angry creditors.

Liquidators of Dunn & Co have issued a writ against the pension scheme, trustees and former directors, alleging that action was taken to put assets beyond the reach of its creditors.

These assets were said to include the payment of a dividend worth £6 million in favour of the pension, and a portfolio of properties from King's Lynn to Taunton.

The action concerns events in 1989 when Dunn set up a limited company, effectively ring-fencing its pension fund from creditors. Recession and falling property values subsequently took their toll, and most of the Dunn operation was closed in 1991, with the loss of up to 400 jobs. About 100 sites were closed. Hodges, a Welsh company, cherry-picked the best 39 sites, and the Dunn name lives on.

unaffected by the current legal dispute.

Creditors first in the queue, such as the banks and the taxman, have received some spoils from the liquidation, but there has been no such joy for the unsecured landlords who owned many of Dunn's former sites. The joint liquidators, Philip Wallace and Peter Beirne of KPMG, have taken the action with a view to clawing back some additional funds.

Dunn was originally an unlimited company, and creditors would have had free pick of the pension fund assets. Creating a limited company put in place a buffer protecting pensioners

from the consequences if things went wrong. The liquidators have called on the pension scheme and trustees to pay over £8 million for the benefit of creditors. Dunn's former directors face separate calls to pay compensation or damages to make up the loss.

Dunn & Co was formed at the turn of the century, and quickly established itself as a familiar name in men's fashion. Norton Rose acts for the Dunn camp, but no-one was available for comment. Albert Armstrong, former deputy chairman of Dunn, was surprised to hear of the action.

Sears sells Saxone and Hush Puppies

By Sarah Cunningham

SEARS took a step towards sorting out its troubled shoe businesses yesterday, selling the Saxone and Hush Puppies brands, and paying £8.75 million to have all of the shops at the centre of the collapse of the Facia group taken off its hands.

Stylo, the Yorkshire shoe group run by the Ziff family, will be paid with a reverse dividend by Sears to take over the unwanted Saxone, Freeman Hardy Willis and Trueform stores. Stylo, in turn, is paying £5.9 million for the Saxone name.

Stylo will also pay £19.2 million for the Hush Puppies retail business, while Wolverine, the American owner of the Hush Puppies brand name, is to pay Sears £3.8 million for the wholesale business. The sale will produce a profit of £500,000 for Sears and is conditional on the agreement of Stylo shareholders.

Helped by vigorous advertising, Hush Puppies, once the preserve of the comfort-seeking middle aged, are enjoying a fashion revival. The pigskin lace-ups have been spotted not only on the feet of diehard fans like Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, but also of film and pop stars such as Liam and Noel Gallagher of Oasis, David Bowie, Jack Nicholson and Sharon Stone.

The shoes are still available in the traditional brown but the range has been extended to add lime green, lemon sorbet and violet.

Stylo, owner of the Barratt and Bacon shoe shop chains, is raising £14.9 million in a placing and open offer at 10p a share to help to fund the Hush Puppies acquisition. It is also arranging credit of up to £15 million.

Sears has expanded the Hush Puppies chain from just 16 in 1994 to 126 today. However, the group's latest strategy is to concentrate on its large-scale, low-price footwear chains - Shoe Express, Shoe City and Dolcis.

Liam Strong, group chief executive, said yesterday that the Hush Puppies sale was "the final building block in our strategy to focus British Shoe Corporation on a small number of brands with the potential for growth".

The deal will leave the British Shoe Corporation, the Sears subsidiary, with 230 of the stores that it sold between August last year and February to Facia, the shoe retailing empire of Stephen Hinchliffe, the flamboyant entrepreneur.

Facia was placed in administration in May, sparking its collapse and leading to the return of the shoe shops to Sears.

Henley & Baker, the surveyor, is looking for buyers for the remaining stores but it is still thought likely that some of these will close, resulting in hundreds of job losses.

Sears has provided £25 million to cover the cost of getting rid of the chains. Mr Strong said yesterday that the figure left Sears "adequately provided for in respect of future liabilities arising from the administration of Facia's footwear interests".

Until yesterday, the Facia debacle had halted attempts at streamlining by Sears, which also owns Selfridges and the Freeman catalogue operation. The group lost £120 million last year. The losses and the dealings with Mr Hinchliffe, combined with high executive bonuses and a poor share performance, have undermined the faith of many investors in Mr Strong.

Sears shares finished 1½p down at the close yesterday, at 98p, while Stylo was unchanged at 120p.



Stepping out: colourful Hush Puppies, and devotees Ken Clarke and model Naomi Campbell

Ofwat to protect Southern customers

By Jon Ashworth

IAN BYATT, Director-General of Ofwat, the water industry regulator, has pledged to ensure that Southern Water is run in the interests of customers as well as shareholders after last month's £1.67 billion takeover by ScottishPower.

Under proposed changes stemming from the deal, Southern Water's average prices would be 1 per cent lower than they would otherwise have been next year, and 3 per cent lower for two years from April 1998.

Inviting comment on the proposals, Mr Byatt stressed his desire to have a clear view of Southern's performance. He said: "My objective is to ensure that the business operates in the interest of customers of Southern Water, not only the group shareholders, and that I have access to information to enable me to regulate effectively. Arrangements for access to information will enable me to continue comparing Southern Water with other water companies." Comments are invited by September 4.

In the past Mr Byatt has argued that water companies that have been taken over should retain a separate listing on the stock market so that he can monitor closely their financial performance.

US labour figures fuel share and bond prices

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

EVIDENCE that the strong momentum of the American economy may be fading yesterday allayed fears of an imminent rise in US interest rates and sent share and bond prices soaring.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was quoted 58 points higher in early afternoon trading. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond jumped by more than a full percentage point.

Surging markets in America helped the FT-SE 100 index in London to close 36.2 points higher at 3,770.6, a rise of nearly 1 per cent. However, the pound closed sharply lower, partly moving in tandem with a softer dollar and partly on nervousness about the latest announcement on BSE which may prolong the British beef ban. Its trade-weighted index closed at 84.1, down from 84.7 on Thursday night.

The trigger for rallies in stock and bond markets was the eagerly awaited US labour market report for July. The unemployment rate edged up to 5.4 per cent in July compared with 5.3 per cent in June. Non-farm payrolls increased 193,000 against a revised 220,000 gain in June. Although this shows that the US economy is still creating

plenty of new jobs, the rise was less than Wall Street had expected.

A hint of slight economic weakening came too in news of a 0.9 per cent fall in factory orders in June, the first decline for four months. Separate figures showed the first drop in consumer spending since January. Yesterday's figures combined with Thursday's news of a weaker purchasing managers' index to strengthen the argument against a rate increase when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on August 20.

Stock market, page 28

Milken embarks on UK venture

By Alasdair Murray

MICHAEL MILKEN, the disgraced former junk bond trader, has teamed up with Larry Ellison, chairman and chief executive of Oracle, the US computer company, to take control of CRT Group, the UK based recruitment and training company.

Education Technology, a start-up venture jointly owned by Mr Milken and Mr Ellison, is paying £109 million to subscribe to 68 million shares at 160p, equal to 50.1 per cent of the company's enlarged share capital. The unexpected interest in CRT excited the City and the shares rose

60p yesterday to close at a record high of 210p, valuing the company at £140 million. CRT will have £100 million to spend after completion of the deal. It said that it had acquisition targets in mind.

The executive team at CRT will remain in place, with Neil McCarthy, executive vice-president of Education Technology, joining as executive deputy chairman. The non-executives will make way for new directors including Tom Kalinske, former chief executive of Sega USA, and Mr Ellison. Education Technology was established by Mr Milken and Mr Ellison at the start of the year. The investment in

CRT is the company's first deal. Mr Milken was jailed for two years in 1990 and fined \$1.1 billion for securities fraud committed while working at Buzman Drexel Lambert, the now defunct investment house. He is still banned from working in the securities industry.

CRT, which floated in 1989, unveiled full-year results yesterday, with profits, excluding exceptional items, rising 22.5 per cent to £8 million. Turnover rose 42 per cent to £83 million. The total dividend was increased 9 per cent to 4.1p, with a final of 3.75p payable on December 11.

Tempus, page 28

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BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3770.6	(+36.2)
Yield	4.07%	
FT-SE All share	1282.58	(+15.52)
Nickel	2040.41	(-4.42)
New York	8550.24	(+55.49)
Dow Jones	8550.24	(+55.49)
S&P Composite	8550.24	(+55.49)
Federal Funds	6.75%	(7.75%)
Long Bond	9.00%	(8.00%)
Yield	6.74%	(8.04%)
3-mth Interbank	5.75%	(5.75%)
Life long gilt	107.20%	(107.20%)
Future (Sep)	107.20%	(107.20%)
New York	1.5420p	(1.5520p)
London	1.5420p	(1.5520p)
DM	7.7400	(7.7800)
SPY	1.8982	(1.8989)
Yen	164.94	(165.24)
S Index	84.1	(84.7)
Tokyo close Yen	106.87	
Brant 15-day (Oct)	\$19.00	(\$19.00)
London close	\$386.45	(\$386.65)
* denotes midday trading price		

Britain must stay at the table while EMU's on the menu

The pressure from some MPs on their respective front benches to rule out British entry to European economic and monetary union (EMU) in the next Parliament increases, it seems, every day. Many claim support in their quest from the City. A clear decision by the Government, they say, would give the City what it most craves — certainty.

They are quite wrong — for two main reasons.

□ With due respect to the sincerity of those who might make it, a promise not to enter EMU in the next Parliament does not, in practice, provide certainty. Would any serious bank or financial institution risk its future by halting EMU preparations on the basis of such a promise?

□ If British ministers were to state a firm intention to opt out, British influence on the detailed

implementation of EMU would sink towards zero — leaving vital British interests unprotected.

Some have argued that a single currency for European Union countries is not viable without a single government. Others take the opposite view. But, given the strong political drive to introduce it, we in the City must prepare for EMU to begin on time.

Let me take the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) as an example. Our futures and options contracts enable financial institutions and their clients to insure themselves against interest-rate movements. As a result, corporate treasurers can protect profitability and jobs, and banks can offer to small businesses and individuals fixed-rate loans and mortgages.

We recognise the powerful political and economic argu-

ments for and against joining. There are commercial arguments both ways, too. We therefore have no corporate view on the merits of EMU or on whether the UK should join. However, we are quite clear that we have to be prepared for EMU to go ahead and for UK entry.

Many Liffe contracts are denominated in currencies that might participate in EMU — the mark, the lira and the pound. If EMU goes ahead, there would, in time, be a single short-term rate of interest across the EMU area and hence a single short-term interest rate futures contract. It would be a heavily traded contract and would give a substantial boost to London as a financial centre if Liffe secured it — a viable objective whether the UK is in or out of EMU.

Liffe has made a good start by making it clear that each of our European short-term interest

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Jack Wigglesworth

rate futures will be Euro contracts — if EMU goes ahead and the contract in question is denominated in a currency that participates in EMU.

We now have to consider our long-term bond futures and options contracts and indeed all our contracts — to position them so

as to secure as much business as possible in a post-EMU world. For this must be the City's objective — to seize as many as possible of the opportunities that are presented by the huge changes to capital markets that will result from EMU. In doing this, we need the support of British ministers and officials in the councils of the European Union. For there are many areas where the right decisions need to be taken both for Britain and Europe. Let me give just three examples.

The December 1995 European Council in Madrid decided that there should be a "legally enforceable equivalence" between the national currencies and the euro. A regulation is necessary to ensure that throughout the European Union participating national currencies are freely convertible into euros without conditions and at mini-

mal cost. Anything less than this could result in legal uncertainty and increased financial risk. Higher risk means higher costs and threatens jobs.

Or take settlement. It is vital that there is a direct link from the UK's real time settlement system for banks to corresponding systems in other EMU member countries (the Target project).

The warning signs are already flashing. Reports now say that continental central bankers have been discussing limiting the access to Target of banks from non-participating countries. If they are successful, UK-based banks and financial institutions may be hit.

Or take contract law. European legislation must ensure that contracts cannot be terminated simply because they are denominated in a currency that is giving way to the euro. However, Euro-

pean legislation does not automatically apply in New York, Japan, or indeed anywhere else in the world.

British ministers and officials need to press for active negotiations with non-EU authorities to ensure that the switch to the euro does not undermine trading in the European financial instruments.

These issues may seem technical, but they are fundamental to the City's continued success as Europe's number one financial centre. The City's ability to generate £20 billion in invisible earnings and more than half a million jobs for Britain may be at stake.

Getting EMU right is important to us all, regardless of whether the UK joins in 1999.

□ The author is chairman of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange

Burford pays £7m for stake

Burford Holdings, the acquisitive property group, has bought a 25 per cent strategic shareholding in Grantchester Group, the warehouse developer, for £6.9 million. The group said it regarded the deal as the first stage of bringing Grantchester to the market. It is Burford's third buy since its £145 million rights issue last May.

Cardcast up

Cardcast, the AIM-listed credit card protection company, lifted its pre-tax profit 83 per cent to £401,000 in the six months to June 30 after a deal with the BBC. There is no dividend.

Airport spend

Aer Rianta, the Irish state-owned airport authority, is to spend £120 million on its two main airports over the next five years. The terminal at Dublin airport is to be extended and fitted with a new passenger handling pier, while passenger facilities will be expanded at Shannon airport.

Dublin ready to restart sale of TSB

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

NATIONAL Australia Bank, the country's largest bank, yesterday reaffirmed its interest in buying the Irish Republic's Trustee Savings Bank, amid renewed signs that the Dublin Government is finally ready to sell.

The Australian bank, which already owns the National Irish Bank as well as Yorkshire, Clydesdale and Northern banks, is interested in acquiring the Irish bank, which analysts estimate could carry a price tag of up to \$250 million (£140 million), to establish a critical mass there.

The move puts the bank head-to-head with Ulster Bank, a subsidiary of the National Westminster, which indicated two years ago that it was interested in a figure removed to be £126 million.

A spokesman for National Australia Bank yesterday said: "We are still very keen on the purchase of the TSB and

the offer is still on the table." National Australia Bank was the preferred bidder for the TSB when it was put up for sale two years ago, but its offer was stalled after pressure from local banks led to the Irish Government opening up the sale to general tender. The bank had hoped to combine the TSB, which has around 5 per cent of the Irish market, with its National Irish Bank, which it acquired in 1986, to double its market share.

The Irish banking market is dominated by the Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank, which between them have around 80 per cent of the market.

National Australia Bank has made no secret of its desire to expand overseas.

Last year it bought Michigan National Bank in the US for \$2.1 billion and is believed to have earmarked up to \$2 billion for future acquisitions.



Arild Nerdrum, chairman of Caverdale, the motor retailer, whose £1 million acquisition of Clarks Rover helped to lift pre-tax profits 26 per cent to £2 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings were 7.1p (6.1p) per share, allowing an interim dividend of 1.6p (1.2p), due October 1.

Jacques Vert plunges into red

JACQUES VERT, the women's wear group, has plunged into the red with a pre-tax loss of £5.04 million for the year to April 27, compared with a profit of £3.1 million the previous year (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The group cancelled its 2.25p interim dividend, which it had already postponed, and

will not pay a final dividend. Bill Reid, the executive chairman who took over as chief executive in March, said that late and incomplete deliveries of clothing to wholesalers and to its own shops had led to large-scale returning of goods and a sharp drop in sales. Turnover was down 14 per

cent to £42.7 million while gearing at year-end was 124 per cent.

The group has closed its Devon factory and is shutting around 30 unprofitable shops, with about 100 job losses, which will be covered by an exceptional charge of £1.67 million in the 1995-96 accounts.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Kept managers plan switch to unit trust

THE managers of Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kept) yesterday offered to turn the fund into a unit trust to try to eliminate the discount at which it is currently trading. The proposal was sparked by a near £500 million bid two days ago by TR European Growth Trust (Treg), which offered to liquidate the ailing trust and return the proceeds to Kept's 77,000 shareholders. The latest offer came just four days before Kept shareholders were due to vote on earlier plans for the board to buy back 60 per cent of Kept shares. Those plans were abandoned yesterday as the managers tried to postpone the EGM and put the new deal forward.

Both of the Kept proposals aim to narrow the difference between the value of the trust's portfolio, known as the net asset value (NAV), and the price at which the shares have been trading. The NAV is currently just under 103p, and the shares closed yesterday at 92½p. Kept has urged shareholders to ignore the Treg proposals.

Weekend Money, page 32

Rec buyback approved

SHAREHOLDERS at the annual meeting of London Electricity, one of the few independent regional electricity companies, yesterday approved the buyback of up to 17.4 million common shares. The maximum price will be 105 per cent of the average price of the shares in the ten trading days immediately preceding the day on which the repurchases are made. The repurchase option expires in August 1997. Shares of London Electricity, which have been on the wane in recent months, closed unchanged at 620p.

Irish jobless total rises

THE Republic of Ireland's jobless total continued its upward trend in July with 5,300 more people signing on for unemployment benefits, according to the Central Statistics Office. The unadjusted July figure of 288,400 prompted opposition parties to call for new government measures to tackle one of the European Union's highest unemployment rates — currently 12.6 per cent. The seasonally adjusted July figure was 285,500 — the highest since March 1994.

Dual success for DMV

DIGI-MEDIA VISION (DMV), a subsidiary of News International, owner of The Times, has received Queen's Awards for Technology and Export. DMV, which is at the forefront of digital satellite and terrestrial broadcasting, is the only company to have been granted both awards this year. They were presented to Mike Windram, managing director, by Mary Fagan, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

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BARCLAYS INSTANT SAVINGS ACCOUNT An instant access account for savings of £100 or more. Interest is paid quarterly or monthly.	£25,000+ £10,000+ £2,000+ £500+ £100+	3.35 2.90 2.75 3.00 1.25	2.68 2.32 2.20 1.60 1.00
PRIME ACCOUNT A high interest savings account for balances of £1,000 or more. Interest is paid quarterly.	£25,000+ £10,000+ £2,500+ £1,000+	3.35 2.90 2.75 2.60	2.68 2.32 2.20 1.60
BARCLAYS TESSA A tax exempt savings account, for those aged 18 and over. Minimum opening balance £25. Interest is paid annually.	£25 to £25,000 subject to annual limits	5.75% TAX-FREE	
SEVEN DAY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT A seven day notice account which can be opened with £1. Interest is paid half-yearly.	£1+	0.50	0.40
JUNIOR BARCLAYPLUS & BARCLAYPLUS Instant access accounts for children and young people up to 16 years of age. Cash dispenser card for people aged 11 years and over. Interest is paid quarterly.	£1+	3.50	3.80

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

In just eight months Sandy Anderson and his team at the rail leasing company Porterbrook have made a personal fortune of more than £80m. Is this the greatest train robbery of all time...?

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

TOURIST RATES

Bank Buys	Bank Sells	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$ 2.00	1.95	Malta 0.552	0.537
Austria Sch 17.05	15.57	Netherlands 2.713	2.483
Belgium Fr 60.05	45.75	New Zealand \$ 2.41	2.19
Canada \$ 2.228	2.085	Norway Kr 10.39	9.59
Cyprus Cyp 0.742	0.697	Portugal Esc 248.00	227.50
Denmark Kr 8.40	8.80	S Africa Rd 7.52	6.72
Finland Mk 7.50	8.85	Spain Ptas 201.00	188.00
France Fr 8.15	7.50	Sweden Kr 10.78	9.98
Germany Dm 2.44	2.23	Switzerland Fr 1.98	1.81
Greece Dr 380	355	Turkey Lira 132770	124770
Hong Kong \$ 12.58	11.88	USA 1.842	1.612
Iceland 113	93		
Ireland Pt 1.01	0.93		
Israel Shk 4.50	4.20		
Italy Lira 2455	2300		
Japan Yen 179.10	163.10		

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: SHEILA MASTERS

The dame who is pitching for president

Jon Ashworth expects to receive a mauling from a woman with a fearsome reputation but is greeted instead by roars of laughter

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

APPROACHING an interview with Dame Sheila Masters feels a little like a boxer preparing for a championship title fight. Will it be a knockout blow or will the punishment linger to the final bell? To rise this high in a firm as big as KPMG, one has to be tough — and to judge by her fearsome reputation, Dame Sheila is as tough as they come. Wrists strapped, gloves on, I step into the ring to do battle.

Several rounds later, I wonder what all the fuss was about. Dame Sheila is tough, certainly, but she does not try to pretend otherwise. One warms to her, as she speaks of those maulings for the unfortunates who fall short of her high standards. Sentences are punctuated by hearty roars of laughter. There is even a glimpse of her "other" life — dogs and cats roaming a farmyard in Kent; dinner in Covent Garden after a night at the opera. Things could be far worse.

Dame Sheila, 47, made a dame in the Queen's Birthday Honours, has cut a swathe through the male-dominated world of accountancy. When she joined Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co in 1970, armed with a law degree from Bristol, women were looked on with suspicion. She was one of only four women out of an intake of 100 in her year. Two-and-a-half decades later, 47 of KPMG's 587 partners are women, and Dame Sheila commands the heights, in a firm that employs 8,481 people and earned £588.7 million in fees last year. This week, KPMG was cleared over its audit of International Signal & Control, the company that brought down Ferranti International. It earlier paid £40 million to settle the case, without admitting liability.

"I think that coming in five years earlier would have been really tough," says Dame Sheila, who qualified as a chartered accountant in 1973 and made partner ten years later. "It was just at the time that women started saying they wanted to have professional careers and go on and do other things. The City and places like that were just changing."

It is tempting to throw in the cliché of the lone woman triumphing against all odds, but Dame Sheila will have none of it. "People always want me to say it was really hard, and it wasn't," she chuckles. "It really wasn't. I think I was lucky. I had a very good senior manager who genuinely took me under his wing and wanted me to succeed. He adopted me as a kind of a daughter and was very kind. He did slightly overprotect me, because it meant I never went on heavy manufacturing audits in places like Stockport. On the other hand, he sent me to cosmetic factories and things like that, which I thought was lovely."

Dame Sheila's talents were recognised long before she made partner. In 1979 she

was seconded to the Treasury for two years in the first of a series of government postings. She was told that life might be tough. "The then senior partner nearly fell off his chair," says Dame Sheila. "I was known as being fairly tough even by 1979."

Why the aggression? "I think it's just a natural stand-and-fight. I've never been on an assertiveness course or anything like that. It's just how I naturally behave. I'm very focused. I know what the end result has to be, and I'll go for it. I can be quite driven in that way."

Dame Sheila concedes that she has made enemies along the way. "It probably should bother me a bit more than it does. While there probably are some people who say they will never work for me, and I know there are, because they've either been slightly scared en route, or they've heard of other people, I don't mind that much. And it's not just because I'm a woman. There are many of my male partners who are in exactly the same position."

Office tensions have never erupted into physical violence, although Dame Sheila once found a threatening note on her desk. She was asked a question about Nigeria on the BBC's *Question Time*, and returned to a note that said something like "You fascist cow, we'll come and get you." Dame Sheila admits to being shaken by the incident.

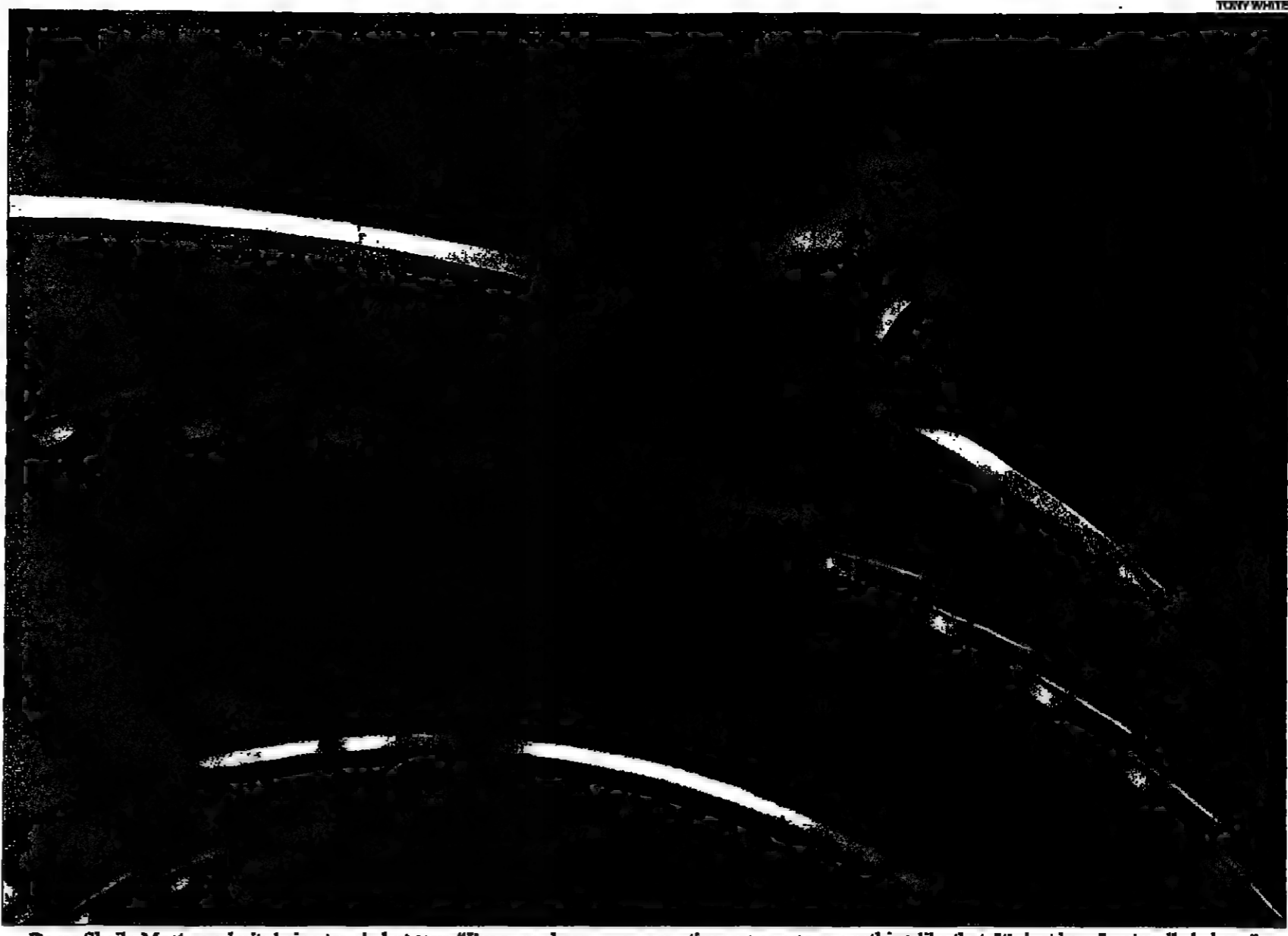
"It was actually quite dreadful, because it was very close to the office. One thought, being there, eight o'clock at night, nobody else around, what might one do?"

She frequently appears on television, once defending the NHS on Sir David Frost's programme. "What is there? Is there something in me that actually likes to be seen?" she muses. "Perhaps there's something in me that might have gone on the stage. There's something in me that likes the attention."

Dame Sheila was seconded to the NHS as director of finance from 1989-91, and later served on the NHS Policy Board. Virginia Bottomley is an old acquaintance, although Kenneth Clarke was in charge at the time. "I came in at a time when the NHS was seriously over-spending and didn't really have any sense of financial management. So I had to completely change the culture and eliminate a lot of deficit."

While Colin Sharman, senior partner of KPMG, was shedding jobs at the firm's London office, Dame Sheila took the axe to the NHS. "Living within finance never quite caught up with the NHS. They found ways of fiddling to get round the year and borrow off next year. I used to do a lot to find out where the cause of the problems were, and really insisting on remedial action, some of which was tough things, like cutting services, and actually starting to manage resources properly."

Dame Sheila insists she is not responsible for hospital closures and other deeply unpopular moves, but the "manage



Dame Sheila Masters admits being tough, but says: "I've never been on an assertiveness course or anything like that. It's just how I naturally behave"

within your means" rallying cry certainly bears her mark. "I never made those decisions. What I said was: 'you managers have to confront the fact that you have to balance your books, and we can talk about how long it's going to take you to balance the books, but you are going to balance with their plan, and their timetable. The difficult thing was actually to get to that position, and then drive them on and not be pushed to one side.'"

Dame Sheila commutes to London by train from a 200-acre farm near Tunbridge Wells, which she shares with her husband, Barry Noakes. The couple have no children. The farm is stocked with pedigree beef cattle and sheep, and there are two racehorses, being groomed as steeplechasers. The couple recently sponsored a race at Windsor: The Barry and Sheila Noakes Handicap. Dame Sheila enjoys life on the farm, but stops short of shearing sheep or mucking out stables. "It's a very nice contrast when I come back for the weekends." The kitchen is filled with dogs and cats.

Working commitments keep Dame Sheila away one or two nights a week. Her main audit client is the BBC, although she denies any part in John

Birt's hard-hitting reforms. She is a non-executive member of the Inland Revenue's Management Board, and a non-executive director of the Bank of England, along with Sir David Lees, Sir Colin Southgate and others.

When staying in London, Dame Sheila is as likely to be found dining in Bertorelli's or Magno's Brasserie in Covent Garden, as taxiing back to the Farmer's Club overlooking the Thames.

Holidays might find her on the ski slopes of Europe. She and her husband are avid skiers and have bought an apartment in Courcheval in France.

Being made a dame has brought sacksful of mail — and some witty retorts. "Colin Southgate actually sent me a CD and said I was to play track 12 on side two, or whatever it was, and I just knew without looking that it was *Nothing Like A Dame*." She is still replying to all the letters from friends and former colleagues. "It's really nice. I know I'll be able to look back on those letters in my old age and relive the glow."

For all her intelligence and success, one last prize has eluded Dame Sheila: the presidency of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). She has put herself up for election twice, and twice been narrowly defeated. After much soul-searching, Dame Sheila has decided to give it one

more try and will be standing again in February — no doubt to the consternation of fellow members of the ICAEW council, on which she has sat since 1987.

"The challenge is actually to try and shake up the institute into an organisation to fit the next millennium, which means quite a lot of attitudes have to change. If the institute was in business, it wouldn't have any business, because it's not close enough to its clients."

Success would leave Dame Sheila in line to become president in 1999. "I'd be crushed if I were rejected a third time. One of my partners said 'of course you're now much too grand to be elected, having been made a dame', but I hope not." She smiles wistfully. "Having got so far, I really want to do it."

HIDDEN ASSETS

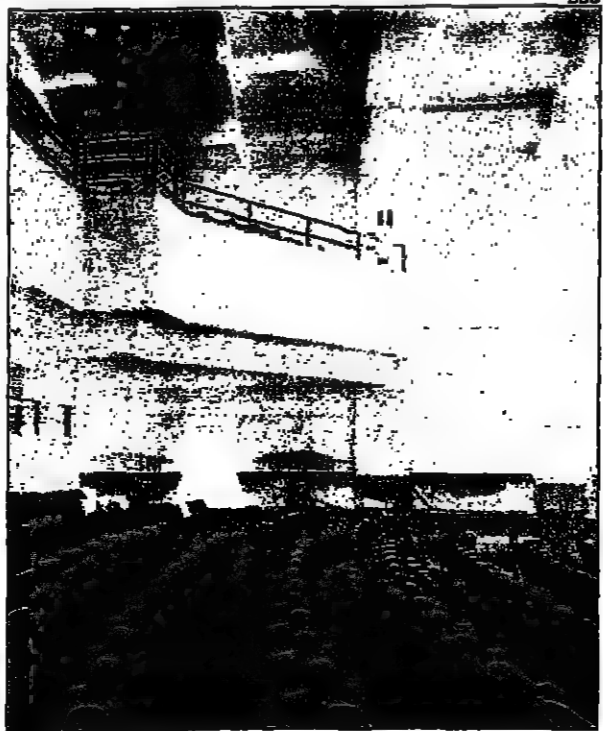
Auntie's Art Deco gem of a theatre shines once again

Hidden inside that great white Art Deco castle of Broadcasting House that looms up as you enter Portland Place from Regent Street is a gem of a theatre, recently restored and refurbished to its original 1930s glamour and now equipped with all the state of the art technology that a modern sound studio could need.

The BBC's audience entertainment programmes, having departed reluctantly from The Paris Studio in Lower Regent Street for reasons of cost, have moved into the new venue and are now revelling in the plush glamour of the renamed BBC Radio Theatre, bringing "as-live" light entertainment programmes such as the *News Quiz* and *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* back to the heart of Broadcasting House after 50 years.

Those bubbly audiences, ever ready with another warm round of applause, now find themselves cocooned in the splendour of a magnificently theatrical Art Deco hall, refurbished, redecorated, with staggering coloured starburst house lighting and the original 1930s wall friezes done by Gilbert Bayes, a contemporary of Eric Gill.

The theatre is one of three remaining halls in Broadcasting House, now all Grade II listed, that retain the original features conceived by Lieutenant-Colonel G. Val Myer, the architect who designed the building as a showcase for broadcasting technology and contemporary interior styles. From the



The theatre has been restored to its Thirties glamour

day in October 1932 when the hall opened with a concert of Mozart and Beethoven string quartets it was used mainly as a venue for the BBC's lunchtime concerts and also as an air raid shelter for BBC staff during the blitz.

Unfortunately, it never quite fulfilled its original promise as a concert hall. Underground rumblings from the Bakerloo line increasingly impinged on the recordings. The stage was never quite big enough to accommodate a full symphony orchestra and the acoustics never matched other new

concert halls of the era. The hall was subject to a series of changes, with the stage and the seating being altered unsuccessfully several times.

In 1940 when a German bomb ripped into the Portland Place side of the building Radio Three decided to decamp to the Wigmore Hall near by and the audience entertainment team went off to The Paris Theatre.

Now the BBC's resources building design team, led by Jane Thornley, an architect, has transformed the hall. She said: "Everything we did had to be done within the guide-

lines of English Heritage. They said we couldn't change the appearance of the hall and yet we had to increase the stage size and radically alter the acoustics to suit speech reverberations as opposed to music.

By lowering the ceiling and bringing in the walls slightly so that the space became about 18 per cent smaller we solved the acoustics problem and we rebuilt the ceiling and walls in wood and plasterboard in such a way that they still look like the original plaster moulding. Acoustics have been further improved with a fine mesh hood stretched above the stage.

The Compton pipe organ, a splendid piece of workmanship of 2,362 pipes commissioned in the early 1930s, is lovingly maintained and played regularly, but it is so loud that its blasts tend to reverberate up and down the building's steel frame, making unwanted appearances in the dozens of erudite programmes being broadcast from surrounding studios — and particularly in the news studio above.

The BBC's in-house Organ Society, however, has insisted for the past 20 years on regular use of the instrument to prevent deterioration. Every night after the Radio 4 announcer has signed off at the end of the midnight bulletin and the shipping forecast has been broadcast, devoted members of the society strike up with their nocturnal concerts.

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DEBT SPIRAL 30

Negative equity and job cuts hit the middle class

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PENSIONS SPLIT 33

How women will be affected after divorce



Insurer warns carpet-baggers

Caroline Merrell explains why speculators in life policies risk getting their fingers burnt

Norwich Union has warned investors against taking out policies solely to benefit from cash or share payouts should it decide to float on the stock market.

NU's warning follows speculation this week that it is looking to become a quoted company by spring or early summer next year. The mutual insurer spoke out in an attempt to stop speculators from taking out new policies in anticipation of a bumper payout. The trade in second-hand NU policies has been brisk for the past 12 months, as rumours of an impending flotation grew.

Some of the buyers of new policies are thought to be "carpet-baggers", the same opportunists who opened scores of share accounts with building societies in the hope of benefiting from a windfall payout when the society converted to being a quoted company.

Four societies — Halifax, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Northern Rock — have already announced their intention to float and their savers and borrowers can expect hundreds of pounds in cash or shares.

However, NU emphasised the difference between buying a 25-year life policy and putting £100 into a society share account. A spokeswoman said: "We sell medium to long-term policies. It is not like a building society, where there are no penalties for switching accounts. Taking out a savings policy only to cash it in after a short time can mean severe surrender penalties."

NU said the majority of its business came from independent financial advisers, which made it difficult to judge how many people were carpet-

bagging. However, dealers in the second-hand endowment contract market report increasing demand for NU policies.

Should NU float, other mutual insurers are likely to follow suit. The float would allow NU to raise fresh capital. Analysts estimate the company created could be worth between £3 and £4 billion.

Norwich Union's three million policyholders would benefit from cash paid in to their policies in the form of an extra bonus or they might get shares in the floated company.

There has been some speculation that the bonus could be worth up to £700 for each policyholder. However, this is

All are now floating or being taken over.

John Jenkins, a leading actuary with KPMG, believes that many life insurers are considering abandoning their mutual status either through merging or through flotation.

Those that will be most vulnerable will be companies which have low free-asset ratios. A lower than average ratio curtails the investment freedom of the company. Mutuals may also want to float because, like Norwich Union, they are looking at ways of raising capital to fund expansion in an increasingly competitive market dominated by large players.

Mr Jenkins said: "All the mutuals, with the exception of the strongest, must be looking at flotation. There are too many life insurance companies in the market."

Some rationalisation has already begun: Provident Mutual was taken over by General Accident last year and Clerical Medical is currently being taken over by Halifax.

Clerical Medical was a keen proponent of mutuality, but had to look for a buyer because of its falling free-asset ratio. It effectively put itself up for auction: there were five bidders, which indicates that there were four disappointed potential owners.

Policyholders earned an average of £1,000 extra bonus in the takeover. Provident Mutual policyholders got only £100 each.

Policyholders with some non-mutual companies may also be in for an unexpected bonus.

Prudential, Refuge and Britannic are all thought to be planning a redistribution of the surplus "orphan" assets in their life funds to shareholders and policyholders.

Taking out a savings policy only to cash it in after a short time can mean severe surrender penalties

by no means guaranteed. Unlike building society takeovers or flotations, Department of Trade and Industry regulations do not allow cash to be paid directly to policyholders, another factor which will weigh heavily against the speculators.

The NU flotation would set a precedent for the rest of the mutual life insurance sector. In the same way that Abbey National's flotation did for the building society sector six years ago. When Abbey floated, the biggest building societies, including Halifax, National & Provincial, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich, all repeatedly emphasised their commitment to mutual status.



Different world: many policies were taken out years ago when the old values of mutuality were much stronger

Checks to start on N&P accounts

Tomorrow will be the final reckoning day for National & Provincial's 1.4 million members. At midnight N&P's computers will start checking savings and mortgage balances and calculating the size of bonus payouts before the takeover by Abbey National on Monday.

But N&P is bracing itself for a continuing flood of claims from members who believe they have been unjustly deprived of bonuses because they were given wrong information by branch staff or because of administrative errors.

The society's computers will be checking that, in the case of savings, an account is still open and contains a balance of at least £100, and that, in the case of a mortgage, it still exists.

Savers of less than two years' standing, and borrowers, will receive a fixed payout of £500 of Abbey National shares. Savers of more than two years' standing will get £750 plus a variable payout of 7 per cent of their account up to a maximum of £3,500.

Non-voting members under 18 or with less than £100 in their account will receive a statutory cash bonus of 9 per cent of their balance.

The society's information office can be reached on 0800 446600.

SARA MCCONNELL

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Mutuals defend position

Friends Provident, Scottish Amicable, NPI and Scottish Life head the list of mutuals which have been suggested as candidates for demutualisation or are suspected takeover targets.

Friends Provident was in talks with the Prudential about a takeover, but is keen to maintain its independence. Michael Doerr, chief executive, said: "We have not sought to be acquired by anyone. We have been mutual for 170 years and although we cannot say we will always be mutual we do not see any reason to present to change. We believe in remaining independent."

He wants to acquire smaller rivals and concedes a merger with another mutual is possible.

Scottish Amicable is considering all options for its future — which could include a float — while NPI is believed to have considered merging with Clerical Medical.

The latter has now been taken over by the Halifax, which leaves NPI looking for another partner. Even the UK's biggest mutuals which include Standard Life, Scottish Widows and Equitable Life, may have to consider demutualisation — although all three pledge

undying commitment to mutuality. A spokesman for Scottish Widows said: "Companies that float are trying to raise initial capital in the marketplace. We are one of the best in terms of financial strength." Widows' mutuality did not stop it competing effectively with proprietary companies, he added. "We are in the process of cutting our costs by up to one third to be more competitive," he said.

Standard Life, Europe's biggest mutual life insurer with £200 billion assets, is vehemently pro-mutual. Iain Lumsden, group finance director, said: "We have no plans to change our status. We have managed to outperform many of the proprietary companies and see no reason why we cannot continue to do so."

Equitable Life said: "We have no plans to change from being a mutual." Equitable Life manages about £16.6 billion on behalf of 500,000 policyholders. Some believe the Co-operative Insurance Society will float but it denies this. "We have absolutely no plans to demutualise," it said. A spokesman said: "We are dismayed by the idea of demutualisation. It means giving up the profits built up by previous generations of policyholders."

PLAYERS

FLOATERS:

Co-operative Insurance
Society/Equitable Life
Norwich Union
Scottish Widows
Standard Life
Sun Life of Canada

TAKEOVER CANDIDATES:

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Guardian
London & Manchester
M&G Assurance
National Mutual Life
NPI
Scottish Amicable
Scottish Life
Scottish Provident

SPECIAL BONUSES/DRIFTHAM ESTATES:

Britannic
Prudential
Refuge
Royal London
Wesleyman
Source: Secured Endowment Contracts

Reporting in brief

Fans of summary financial statements are on the warpath. They want to recruit more companies to foist this curiosity of privatisation on small investors in lieu of annual accounts. Surprisingly, shareholders may in the end benefit from the attempt.

In 1990, the Government allowed companies to offer shareholders only a summary balance sheet, profit and loss account and abbreviated directors' report. It aimed to help out privatised companies landed with huge registers of tiny shareholders. The summary financial statement (SFS) was touted as a better, simpler way to communicate, but was motivated chiefly by a desire to save money. It has not been a huge success.

Those who adopted summary financial statements claim they are extremely popular, with 90 per cent of investors choosing them. In reality, summary accounts were usually subject to a passive selling exercise so the figures mean only that few investors send in a form demanding a full annual report. Little more than 30 companies have taken up the option, including only 15 that were not privatised in mass sales. Many boards reckoned that having to produce two glossy sets of accounts was a hassle and unlikely to cut costs. Others dislike the idea of treating small shareholders as second-class citizens.

Last week, however, the Institute of Chartered Accountants launched a campaign to make SFSs more popular. Much of the debate is still about saving money, now that the Government has made passive selling even easier. SFSs are reckoned to be cost effective for

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

scores of companies with more than 60,000 shareholders. But there is also a strong positive element.

David Allvey, chairman of the working party responsible, is a genuine enthusiast. He is finance director of BAT Industries, whose accounts are made long and complex by being part manufacturer, part insurance company, BAT and former subsidiaries Argos and Arjo Wiggins Appleton make up three of the 15 mainstream issuers. His report suggests how the SFS formula can be used to make a report that interested investors can understand and is far superior to the statutory minimum.

If the summary becomes central to the "main" annual report, statutory accounts with all the trimmings can be relegated to a separate super-dry volume for those who want or need it. In America, much tedious repetitive detail is confined to statutory filings.

Using the lax government formula to experiment can be healthy. Sooner

rather than later, rules need to be laid down for better SFSs if they are to become a major conduit for companies to report to private shareholders.

The Accounting Standards Board should give priority to devising a simpler set of accounts good enough to give shareholders a true and fair view. The SFS will certainly need to be updated to take account of the board's reforms. It should include a five-year record, simple cashflow statement, earnings and cashflow per share and other simple ratios that any professional can put up on a personal computer.

A single paragraph should tell investors whether the company complies fully with accounting standards. Cadbury, Greenbury and like codes, making departures stick out. A similarly brief but more meaningful report from auditors would be welcome. And matters of controversy among ordinary investors, such as board pay or contracts in which directors have an interest, should be covered in large print.

Accepted ways are needed to present SFSs too. Tabloid newspapers may be fun: A4 magazine-size booklets are easier to file in one's desk. As Mr Allvey's report suggests, "simplified" reports are already growing fat with self-justifying verbiage. A voluntary limit on the number of pages needed to get the board's message across would be a boon. If the board needs four pages to justify an executive bonus scheme, it should abandon it. The extra space could then be devoted to welcome special offers for shareholders.

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Jody Brett Kelly explains why people who have never before been in the red are now suddenly having to struggle with debt problems

Debt worries haunt the middle class

Debt is a dirty word, conjuring up images of bailiffs and grinding poverty, yet an increasing number of middle-class families are now struggling to escape it.

Battered by negative equity, huge job cuts and rising prices, one in seven British families have fallen into debt.

National Debtline, the counselling service, has reported a 60 per cent rise in calls in the last six months and in cities such as Bradford more than one in six households have County Court judgments (CCJs) outstanding.

Many people try to sort out their financial problems by taking out "just one extra loan", but that often leads to court action and mounting bank charges. To make matters worse, tax burdens weigh heavily on families. A report published this week has found that you have to choose between a decent standard of living or having children — a man with two children is

only £4.97 a week better off than a bachelor, in spite of the married man's £1,790 tax allowance.

But the biggest problem is easy credit. Offers of quick loans, cheap loans, pay-later loans, credit cards, store cards and catalogues abound.

Most people get into debt, not because they buy a luxury yacht or a huge home but because they take out loans for everyday living. People who have never before been in the red are now struggling with debt problems. Frances Walker, of the Consumer Credit Counselling Service, the advice agency, said: "It's usually triggered by an event: some have had working hours cut, an unexpected pregnancy or have been made redundant."

Sophie Brookes-Hinds of National Debtline added: "The problems don't end when people find a job, after that they are forever playing catch-up. Faced with a serious financial prob-

lem, many people bury their heads in the sand, refusing to answer the phone or open letters. But denying debts is the worst thing you can do. Many people end up with a CCJ against them because they are afraid to go to court. If they go and offer to pay even a small amount per month, they can avoid a CCJ.

Kathie Clark of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) said: "Lots of people don't admit the extent of the problem. That contributes to their worries by making them stressed." A free debt counsellor in one of the many organisations in the UK will not judge you. They will help to draw up a list of your debts, look at whether you are missing out on tax allowances, housing benefits, family credit payments and council tax rebates. They will write to creditors for you, ask them to freeze interest and

even sometimes reduce the debt before setting up a payment schedule.

Ms Clark said most creditors are understanding if they know about your plight: "They want to see you are making an effort." A last resort is bankruptcy. It is now easier to declare yourself bankrupt and costs £276 or £46 if you are on benefits. But remember that though bankruptcy wipes the debt slate clean and may be a solution if your debts are overwhelming, credit agencies will keep a note of it for 15 years. This will hinder your chances at starting up a business or getting credit again.

National Debtline: 0121 359 8501
CAB: find nearest money advice unit via the telephone book
Consumer Credit Counselling Service: 0345 607301
Credit Action: 0800 591 084
Taxaid: 0171 624 3768



Light at the end of the debt tunnel: Kim Liversley and Jason Gilder sought professional help

Credit counsellor eased blues after a new baby

Kim Liversley and Jason Gilder were delighted when their daughter Charlotte was born. They had both worked overtime to save £1,000 to make sure they didn't have to borrow money for Charlotte's layette. Kim, 37, a sales assistant, planned to take three months off work.

But in spite of their nest egg, the Nottingham couple fell into debt. Jason, 31, was bringing home £750 a month from his maintenance job in a supermarket. Out of that they had to pay the mortgage of £224 a month on their one-bedroom house, £150 a month on the loan for their Ford Escort car, food and clothing and school uniform for Rebecca, Kim's eight-year-old daughter.

"I just don't know where it all went," said Jason. "We

were being extravagant, this was just everyday living. When the car broke down it was disaster."

He took out a £1,500 loan from his union and his overdraft crept up to close to £845 a month. The bank sent them ten letters about their overdraft or informing them of a bounced cheque. Each letter cost them a further £25.

For several months Jason kept their money problems from Kim: "She had just had the baby, everyone was happy. I didn't want to ruin things."

He says now that was the worst thing he could have done. "I didn't want to open the mail, or answer the phone. I just got very grumpy and tired. Kim would try and find out what was wrong and I would storm out." On the advice of their bank, three

months ago they put themselves in the hands of the Credit Counselling Service, an organisation set up by financial institutions that negotiates with creditors and takes a fee from the creditors of 15 per cent of the debt.

Among other things, Kim and Jason swapped their Switch card for just a hole in the wall card and cut their food bill by £150 a month to £30 a week. The CCS has handled all problems including a letter from the car company threatening to take them to court and a letter from Norway when they were not able to pay the £300 on their new washing machine.

Mr Gilder said: "We both feel a lot better. Of course it's very hard, we never go out, but there is light at the end of the tunnel."



Interest and fees on Pat and Peter Moore's £31,000 debt swelled it to £55,000 in five years

Bank loan blights family

Pat and Peter Moore saw their combined overdrafts of £31,000 rise to £55,000 through bank charges and interest. The debt has affected the health of the couple, who live in Camberley, Surrey, and nearly swallowed their home.

In 1990 Peter Moore, 62, had personal and business overdrafts totalling £17,000 with Barclays after his business supplying fresh fruit juice to airlines closed down. In addition he and his wife had a joint personal overdraft of £3,000.

In 1991 the total overdraft was £31,000 after the bank combined all their overdrafts, about which Mr Moore was very unhappy. The overdraft rose steadily and he tried to settle. A

year ago Mr Moore, now a postal clerk, realised the total loan was secured on his home because of a document signed previously which said all loans would be secured on the house. A week ago the bank threatened to take possession of their £125,000 detached home which has only a £16,000 mortgage.

The Moores' daughters came to the rescue so they could remortgage and pay off the debt. Janice, 30, a nanny, put in the £15,000 she and her boyfriend had saved in the last six years and took out a personal loan of £10,000.

Mr Moore said: "Only the sanity and discipline of working has saved us. Things have been so bleak and desperate."

They are now seeking help from Safe (Struggle Against Financial Exploitation, 0711 636 0607), a pressure group.

Barclays said: "We wrote to Mr Moore every month letting him know what the situation was. We were constantly in touch and in 1993 we offered to settle for less than the debt. The interest rate was always fair. We waited a year after the court case before issuing proceedings for possession of the house. If people find themselves in this situation they must contact the bank as early as possible and try to reach a solution which is acceptable to both parties. We always try to take the customer's circumstances into account."

Couple's troubles doubled by conman

When Sandra Ward and Paul Clarke met six years ago they were both living the good life with no money worries. Neither imagined they would be struggling with a debt of £15,000 and court action.

Problems started for the Huddersfield couple in 1993 when Sandra's ex-husband stopped paying maintenance for their two daughters, now aged 11 and 14.

The payments — £250 a month — represented a fifth of their income at the time because Paul had decided to wind up his electronic engineering business, a procedure that cost more than he thought.

They had agreed that Sandra, a secretary, would take a two-year HND in computing at university for which she received a grant of £200 a month.

The mortgage for their four-bedroom house was £500 a month including a home improvement loan. Their debts rose to £15,000 including £4,000 on two credit cards. Sandra, 43, said: "The hardest thing was to admit it. Just

dealing with the constant letters was exhausting." After considering several debt agencies they consulted a man who advertised in their local paper.

They agreed he would pick up a cheque for £350 once a month and distribute it to their creditors after he had taken a fee of 10 per cent. But three months later they could not contact him and no-one had been paid.

They were unable to recover the £1,050 they paid him, and because of the delay, Paul received two CCJs. As a result, he has been unable to get a cheque account from a bank and has found it difficult to get a mortgage.

Over the last three years they have got their debt down to £3,000 but Sandra says she still gets nasty calls that reduce her to tears. On one of the store cards they have paid £900 on a £600 debt and still have £200 to pay.

Both are now working and earn £32,000 gross per year. They sold their home but just broke even. Mr Clarke said: "I see the future as rosy now, but it's been a long hard struggle."



Sandra Ward and Paul Clarke had to sell their home

ARE YOU ON A COMPANY'S CREDIT BLACKLIST?

It may be that you are unnecessarily being turned down for credit by unwittingly being on a credit blacklist. To check, send a letter and £1 to the two main

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HOW TO AVOID DEBT

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- Use credit and store cards less often.
- Do not take out any loans that are secured on your house.
- Pay as many bills as possible with standing orders or direct debits.
- Find out when your monthly mortgage payment is credited: it could be annually.
- Don't start ambitious savings plans before you clear your high interest debts.
- Avoid buying by catalogue.

ESCAPE THE DEBT TRAP

- Compare your spending and income. You must be totally truthful with yourself.
- Don't take out one big loan to pay off all your other debts.
- Set a budget with a counsellor's help.
- Get the counsellor to look at both your current tax code and your tax allowances.
- Pay mortgage and debts that could lead to a prison term.
- Tell your creditors about your circumstances and get interest frozen.
- Look at taking in a lodger or moving to a smaller house.
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Financial step forward for ballet

Changes in tax allowances have brought relief to dancers on low wages, says Jody Brett Kelly

As Sally Gunnell's collapse on the Olympic track in Atlanta has shown, athletes who make constant demands on their ankles, feet and legs are prone to recurring injuries.

Royal Ballet dancers have similar problems. The relentless stresses on their toe and knee joints mean that they are forced to spend up to £4,000 every year on massage and osteopathic treatment as well as spending large sums on rehearsal gear, taxis and stage make-up.

The expenses make a huge dent in their take-home wages of around £800 a month and for two years the 150 dancers in the Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Royal Ballet in Covent Garden, London, have campaigned to be able to make work-related expenses tax-deductible.

Now the Inland Revenue is allowing the dancers to back-date their new tax allowance to 1990 which will amount to a potential tax refund of up to £1,000 for each dancer.

In March this year the Inland Revenue agreed to allow £860 worth of expenses a year for dancers.

It has agreed to raise the allowance and is permitting

allowances to be backdated six years. The dancers are obviously delighted with the move, and say it will make a large difference to their budgets.

Lee Fisher, a dancer with the Birmingham Royal Ballet, says: "Our jobs are a labour of love because we are not paid that much. Our expenses really ate into the money we earned and it's nice to have that recognised by the Inland Revenue."

Their accountant, who spearheaded the campaign, Chris Ellard of Neville Ellard, the Surrey firm, says: "This is not a tax rebate for the elite. Just remember how little these people are paid."

The dancers' problems started six years ago when the Revenue ruled that dancers and actors could no longer be classed as self-employed and had to be taxed under pay-as-you-earn rules. This meant they could not claim expenses.

A group of actors led by Alec MacGowan and Sam West took this ruling to court. As a result, some actors were allowed to retain their self-employed status. However the court ruling did not apply to ballet dancers.



Foot scored: Karina Hernandez, one of the Birmingham Royal Ballet artists who have won a test case for tax relief



MARIANNE CURPHEY
Personal Finance
Deputy Editor

Reality returns to the mortgage merry-go-round

There is no such thing as a free lunch — unless of course you are a mortgage customer. Over the past few years thousands of homeowners have been dining out hand-somely at the expense of banks and building societies, which, desperate for their business in the depths of a housing market slump, have been offering up to £9,000 in cashback mortgages. These customers have not even needed to move home to enjoy the goods — they have needed only to threaten their lender that they intended to leave, and held out their hand for the ready. First-time buyers have had an even better deal, being able to pick and choose discounts and cash incentives and play one society off against another.

So it was with a barely-concealed sigh of relief this week that leading building societies announced they were reducing the number of such mortgages on offer. The housing market was looking perky, they said, and it was time to pass on benefits to the members, rather than to try to poach customers from rivals. On the pretext of wanting to return to a "normal" housing and mortgage market, the bigger lenders can now save millions of pounds by offering ordinary variable rates without looking mean.

Their thrift will also please the Bank of England, which has called on lenders to be more vigilant in enforcing credit standards. It is concerned that with too many mortgage providers chasing a finite amount of business, lenders might start accepting unsuitable borrowers.

The Bank has a long memory and can recall the problems of the 1980s, when in the heady days of the housing boom, some lenders adopted a laissez-faire attitude to credit-checking. Now demand for mortgages is rising, competition is fierce, and banks and building societies have millions of pounds sloshing around in their reserves that they want to lend. Very little money is flowing out because savers want to stick around lest they lose the chance of a windfall bonus.

We are at that cross-roads once again, when lenders have to choose between making a quick profit in the short-term by accepting anyone and everyone who wants to borrow money, and suffering later, or carefully selecting good long-term customers. Let's hope the industry shows a little more collective restraint than it did first time around.

A sell-off too far

The novice investors who bought into the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) have learnt the hard way that the stock market can be both capricious and cruel. Many were Sids — the archetypal small shareholder who enjoyed the healthy returns that the first tranche of privatisation shares provided. Here was a trust, it seemed, where riches were guaranteed. It was not to be. The Kepit flotation in 1994 pulled in a record £800 million, but shares have consistently traded below the 100p launch price.

The net asset value, the underlying worth of the fund, has risen to just under 103p, a pitiful rise in two and a half years. Kepit's managers proposed to buy back more than half the shares in an attempt to match supply more closely to demand. But an ailing trust is never safe from predators, and a rival trust, TK European Growth Trust (Treg) pounced with a proposal to liquidate Kepit. Kepit's managers yesterday improved the proposal — offering to turn Kepit into a unit trust to try to eliminate the discount. Other predators are likely to be waiting in the wings. Kepit shareholders should sit tight and see what else is offered.

Recovery inspires lenders to end special mortgage deals

Lenders are reducing cashbacks, discounts and other special mortgage deals, particularly remortgaging, in a bid to restore the market to "normal" as signs of recovery continue.

The Halifax Building Society and Abbey National, the two largest lenders, announced this week they were cutting cashback offers to borrowers remortgaging. Abbey is also planning to cut down on fixed-rate and discount offers. It is calling on others to follow its lead and move back towards simple variable rate loans as buyers return to the market.

During the housing slump, lenders desperately tried to tempt buyers back with offers of discounts, free legal fees and valuations and cash payments or cashbacks sometimes reaching into thousands of pounds. Borrowers who did not want to move were offered special incentives to remortgage and lenders shamelessly poached customers from their rivals. Often the deals on offer were

loss-making for lenders. Now they are calling a halt.

From September, Abbey borrowers with deposits of more than 25 per cent will qualify for a cashback of just 2 per cent of the loan, instead of the current 5 per cent, while those with deposits of between 5 per cent and 25 per cent will get 1 per cent. People moving house will continue to get a 5 per cent cashback.

Charles Toner, managing director of Abbey National's retail division said: "All the indications are that the housing market is getting better, more people are moving home, confidence is returning and property prices are steady or rising. We would like to see the very high levels of discounting and cashbacks reduced and a return to fairer pricing for all borrowers". The Abbey would in future direct any special deals towards buyers moving house not remortgaging, said Mr Toner.

Cashbacks and discounts cost Abbey

£200 million last year. The C&G, now part of Lloyds Bank, announced similar reductions in cashbacks last month for both mortgages and remortgages. The Halifax, which this week revealed a rise in house prices for July, has reduced its base mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 7.74 per cent and is cutting cashbacks. Mike Blackburn, chief executive, said this was to allow existing borrowers to benefit from lower rates. Last year Halifax withdrew cashbacks but was forced to restore them to compete.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said remortgages already accounted for a smaller proportion of new business than at the end of last year, when 27 per cent of loans were for remortgaging. Peter Williams of the CML said: "The market is ever more exhausted and customers are aware that there are special deals but there are catches."

SARA MCCONNELL

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Karen Zagor on prospects for an oil giant sold little by little

BP running smoothly after a rocky road



Until the recent British Energy share furore, British Petroleum had the dubious distinction of being the only big privatisation stock to sink below its issue price in the first days of trading.

BP's black day came in October 1987, when the fourth and biggest tranche of its share issue coincided with one of the most dramatic stock market crashes of the century. Now, however, with the shares healthily outperforming the FT-SE All-share index, there is little reason for investors to be fearful when the company reports mid-year earnings on Tuesday. BP has recently met or exceeded its performance targets, and the trend is expected to continue. Shareholders will be looking for further increases in the dividend, yet to catch up with the company's financial recovery.

How have the shares fared?

Investors paid the equivalent of 70.4p when the first tranche of BP shares was sold in 1977. The second slice, in 1979, sold at 121p, and the third, in 1983, for 145p. They have all done well. It was the final sale, priced at 330p at the height of the Thatcher privatisation binge in 1987, that suffered most from the stock market crash. It took the shares almost three years to climb back to above their offer level.

The shares stumbled again in 1992, when a boardroom

putsch led to the resignation of Robert Horton (now chairman of Railtrack) as chairman and chief executive. As institutional investors piled out of the company, the shares sank to 185p. In May this year, they hit a high of 592p. Since then, they have maintained respectable, if lower, levels. At about 580p, all privatisation investors will have made a decent profit.

Why were BP shares sold in so many stages?

BP has actually always been a quoted company, but, at one time, the Government held a big stake. The initial share sale, under a Labour Government, was not a Tory-style privatisation but the sale of a fraction of the shares to raise some money for the Government. The next two sales were similar, and it was not until 1987 that a sizeable chunk of shares was marketed to the public.

The final sale set the scene for BP's problems in subsequent years. Because of the market crash, very few private investors bought the shares. Instead, the Kuwaiti Government took the opportunity to buy a big stake — about 20 per cent. Because of potential political ramifications, BP was later obliged to buy back about 10 per cent of the shares.

How high are the dividends?

During the dark days of the early Nineties, BP's dividend was halved and then frozen in



Finding oil is no problem, but keeping it is, as Faye Dunaway found in *Oklahoma Crude*

1992. May 1994 saw the first dividend rise since the last quarter of 1990. In August 1995, the company announced a 33 per cent dividend rise. The company has said that dividends will rise to the equivalent of half the underlying earnings.

What is expected of BP?

During the Eighties, the North Sea oil bonanza encouraged BP to spend extravagantly. The company expanded too far afield as it shifted its focus from oil and gas to resources, and, in the process, acquired

too much debt. The borrowing burden of buying back its shares also contributed to BP's woes.

The company has come far since 1992. Its productivity has risen dramatically, helping it to meet its financial targets. BP is once again concentrating on its core oil, gas and petrochemicals operations. Proceeds from selling non-core assets have reduced debt. A sustained debt-cutting programme has helped the balance sheet — debt carries high interest rates, so the lower the debt, the lower the interest payment burden. Profits have also been helped by

firmer oil prices. The recent announcement of a novel alliance between BP and Mobil, now awaiting EU approval, should also help the company cut costs and compete more aggressively.

BP plans to increase its income by \$1.5 billion to \$4.5 billion a year by the end of the century. Earnings growth is projected at 8 per cent a year, with capital spending rising by 4 per cent. Analysts expect BP to meet its targets, both because of its renewed strength and because it has used realistic prices, margins and inflation forecasts to set its targets.

Hope in sight at Kleinwort trust

In a surprise move this week, TR European Growth Trust (Treg) announced a near-£500 million bid for Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit). The move sparked a swift counter-proposal from Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, Kepit's manager, which yesterday afternoon put forward plans to utilise Kepit — that is, change it from an investment trust into a unit trust. By doing so, it hopes to increase value to shareholders.

The dramatic announcement is being seen in the City as a last-minute bid to prevent Treg liquidating the whole trust. Kepit managers said yesterday they were seeking an adjournment of the extraordinary general meeting scheduled for Tuesday, at which shareholders were being

asked to vote on Kepit's earlier proposal to buy back 60 per cent of its own shares.

Both of the Kepit proposals aim to narrow the difference between the value of the trust, known as the net asset value (NAV) and the price at which the shares have been trading.

Since the launch of the trust, they have consistently traded below the NAV, ie, at a discount. The 77,000 Kepit shareholders now have to choose between the new offer from Kepit, Treg, or perhaps another City fund manager who wants to liquidate the trust and who may make a bid within the next week. Analysts believe Treg's offer will flush out rival bidders who find the prospect of getting their hands on the Kepit funds extremely attractive.

The Kepit flotation in 1994 pulled in a record £800 million from investors who

were buoyed up by successful UK privatisations and hoped for similar rich pickings in Europe. The result was a disappointment — European privatisations never offered the easy UK-style profits. The shares are currently priced at about 92p after rising slightly on the announcement.

Treg is offering roughly 93.86p per Kepit share in cash and 28.16p per warrant, although the final offer depends on market price and expenses on the day the bid is completed. Treg has conceded that Kepit's shareholders have to accept the offer without knowing exactly what they will get for their shares. At July 29 Kepit's NAV was 102.9p. Treg is offering the equivalent of a NAV of 94.6p.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



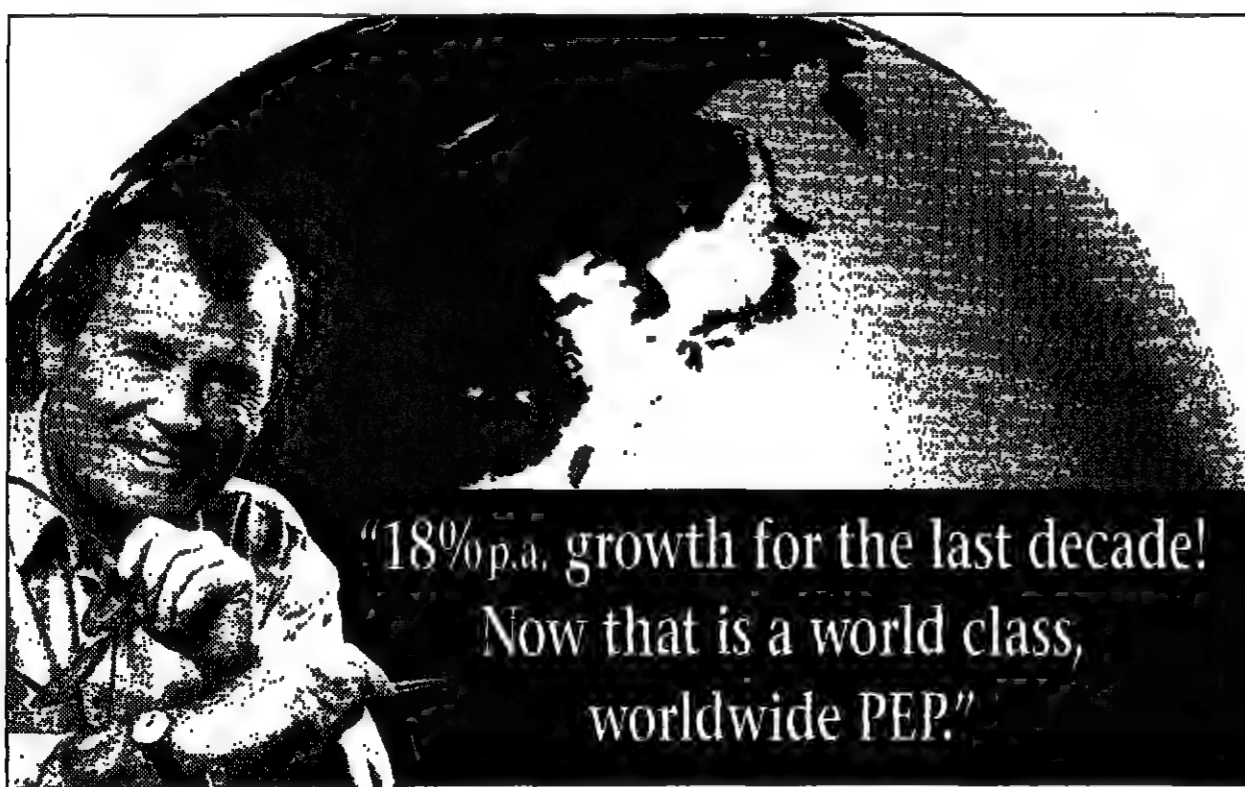
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JP 11/150

Women on the verge of a Century Life censured for delay pensions breakthrough

Pensions may be shared on divorce, if plans become law, says Sara McConnell

Divorced women will for the first time be able to insist on an immediate share of their former husband's pension as part of a divorce settlement if government proposals published this week become law. But they will not necessarily be able to take the pension and invest it for their own retirement. Some will have to leave the money invested in their former husband's scheme even after the divorce is final.

They will also have to wait at least four years before any changes to present rules are implemented because the Government's computer systems will have to be upgraded to handle new records. So what has the Government proposed and how will it affect you if you are getting divorced? Here are some answers.

Q Will men be able to get a share of their former wife's pension if she is the one with the larger pension?

A Yes, the proposals will apply equally to both sexes. But more women than men find themselves without pension provision when they divorce, either because they have stayed at home to bring up a family or because they worked in part-time or low-paid jobs which excluded them from company schemes and were not enough to build up a personal pension. It was concern for the plight of women in this position that finally resulted in these proposals to split pensions.

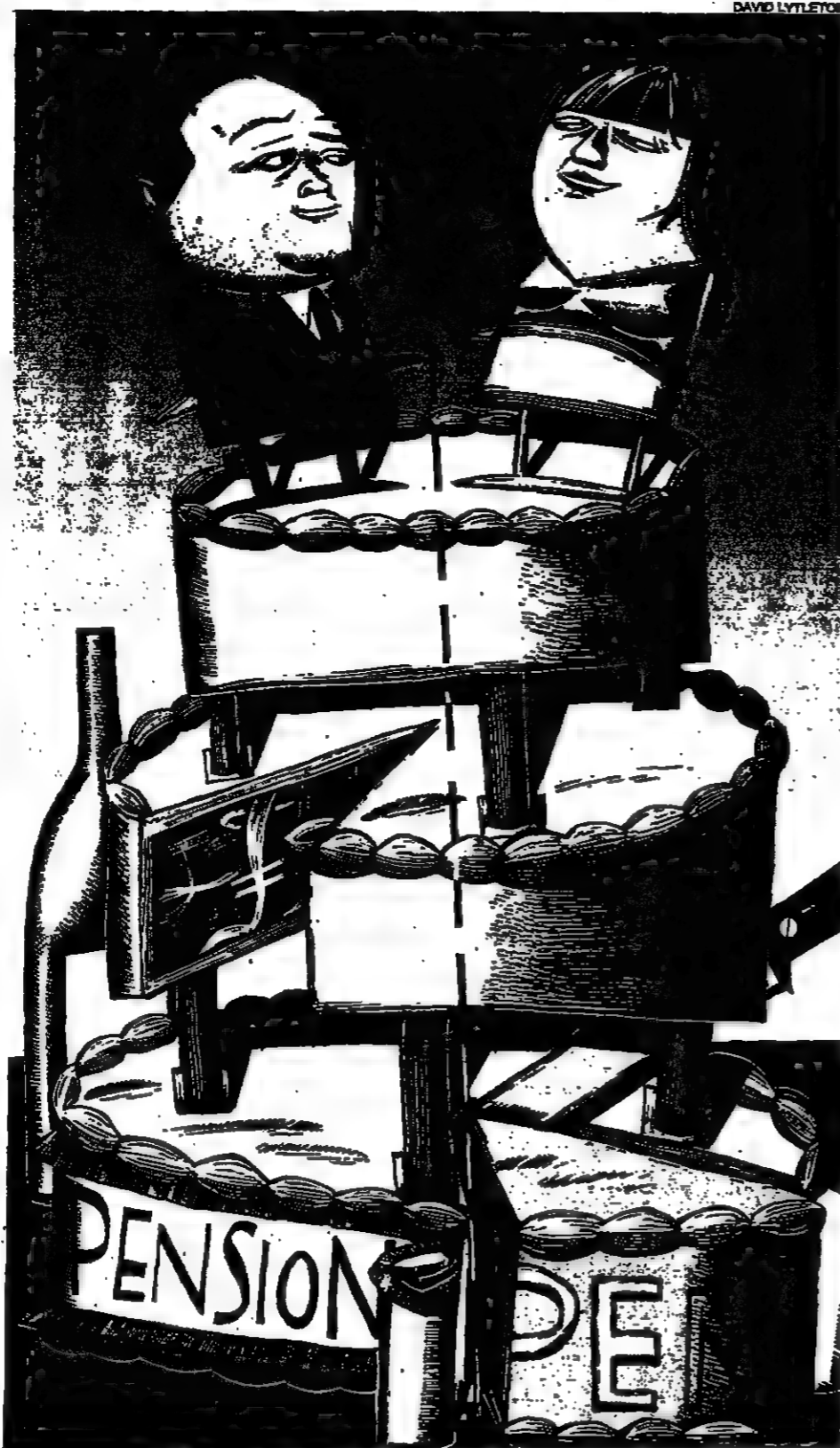
Q Why haven't pensions ever been split before?

A Divorce courts have never had the power to order an actual split of the pension. They can and do take pensions into account when working out divorce settlements but the value of the pension is normally set against other assets like the family home. The problem with this is that many women in particular who have been counting on their husband's pension find themselves with little or no retirement income.

Q So if I divorce in future, will I definitely get a share of my ex-spouse's pension rights?

A This is the intention. But unfortunately it is not as simple as just taking a pension and splitting it down the middle. It has to be valued. Then it is a matter of what happens to it after it has been split. Under the Government's proposals, this will depend on what sort of scheme the money is in before the divorce.

If your former spouse works for a private-sector employer that invests pension contributions for its employees, you may be able to transfer your share out of the scheme, if the employer agrees. If it refuses, you must leave your share frozen in the scheme. You will not be able to add to it because you are not an employee.



Instead you could find yourself in a specially created "divorced spouse" category of membership. It is not yet clear what rights, if any, you would have. Again, it is up to the employer to decide if it wants to insist on this rather than allowing you to transfer.

You will almost certainly have to leave your share in the scheme if your former spouse works in the public sector or as a civil servant. The Government is adamant that it would cost taxpayers too much to allow transfers of funds out of these schemes. This is because contributions are not invested but go immediately to pay benefits for today's pensioners.

Q But isn't this a bit unfair, not having a choice?

A It is difficult to judge because no-one knows how the new membership category for the divorced will work. You may actually benefit from remaining within a public-sector scheme as these are some of the most generous.

Q What would I do with the money if I were allowed to transfer?

A If you are a member of another occupational scheme in your own right you could try transferring your share to your own pension. Alternatively you could transfer it to a personal pension, or start a personal pension with the money.

If you are not earning, you cannot contribute to a pension, but you could use the money to buy a deferred annuity, which will pay you a regular guaranteed income when you retire. If you are working but are not allowed to transfer, you can still continue to contribute to your own pension while leaving your share of your divorced spouse's pension frozen, as long as you do not exceed Inland Revenue limits on contributions or benefits.

Q So when is all this going to happen?

A Lord Mackay of Ardglenish, the junior Social Security Minister, said this week it will be at least four years before anything happens, even if the proposals turn into legislation next year.

Q What happens if I divorce in the meantime?

Tens of thousands of pension scheme members who have already been waiting more than two years for their benefits learnt this week that most of them face a further wait until at least the end of next year and in some cases possibly the end of the century.

The 79,000 members are in 4,900 schemes, many of which are being wound up after the collapse of small employers. But concern is growing over continuing administrative delays and refusal of some of the trustees of schemes to co-operate in the winding up process so that transfer values can be calculated. The Times has repeatedly focused on the plight of the members over the past two years.

The scheme members' cause is being championed by Julian Farrand, the Pensions Ombudsman. In his annual report published this week, he reserved harsh criticism for Century Life, which manages the pension funds after taking them over from Crown Life three years ago. "After over two years work the progress reported by Century to date can be seen in the eyes of many scheme members as extremely disappointing," he said.

Dr Farrand forecast that Century would not achieve its goal of sorting out the majority of cases by the end of 1997 and said: "Based on progress over the last two years, I believe that some hundreds if not thousands of members might not be able to access their benefits until the end of the decade."



Piggott, suffered a six-year wait

of the decade. Dr Farrand made clear he was now prepared to investigate individual complaints from members of Century schemes. Previously he and Michael Platt, his predecessor, were told that doing this would create more delays but Dr Farrand has now lost patience. He is investigating a dozen individual complaints, mostly against former employers or trustees but one against Century.

Century angrily refuted Dr Farrand's claims. John Deane, Century's client services manager, said: "The report misses the point. It takes lots of people to wind up a scheme. Up to 700 of the schemes had no trustee and Century has applied to the courts to get trustees appointed." Mr Deane said Century had

no control over the timing or nature of information given to it by trustees but could not act without trustees' co-operation. Century says it has already calculated benefits for 50 per cent of the schemes and is confident of being able to resolve the vast majority by the end of next year.

Bruce Piggott and his 55 fellow scheme members have already been waiting five years for their pension benefits. After Stag Microsystems, their employer, went into receivership in 1991, Mr Piggott, who was made redundant in 1990, has been waiting six years. Stag's pension was managed by Crown and the assets are now in the hands of Century. Mr Piggott estimates that his own share of the £480,000 fund is about £9,000 plus interest. For the last three and a half years he has been waging a non-stop campaign to force the trustees to calculate benefits so that Century can pay them out.

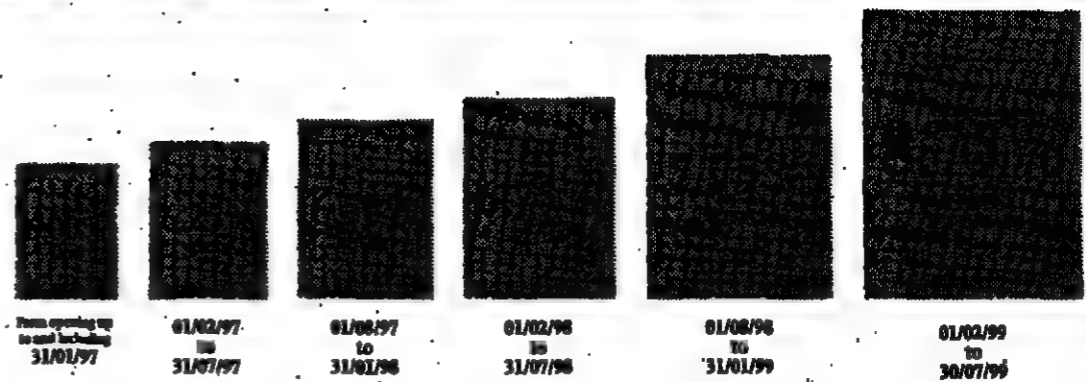
Now, on the sixth anniversary of Mr Piggott's redundancy, there is finally the prospect of a payout. Bradstocks, independent trustees for the Stag pension fund, told *The Times* it should have finalised calculations for payouts by the end of this month. Terry Williams of Bradstocks blamed the delay on European legislation on equalisation of retirement benefits for men and women.

SARA MCCONNELL

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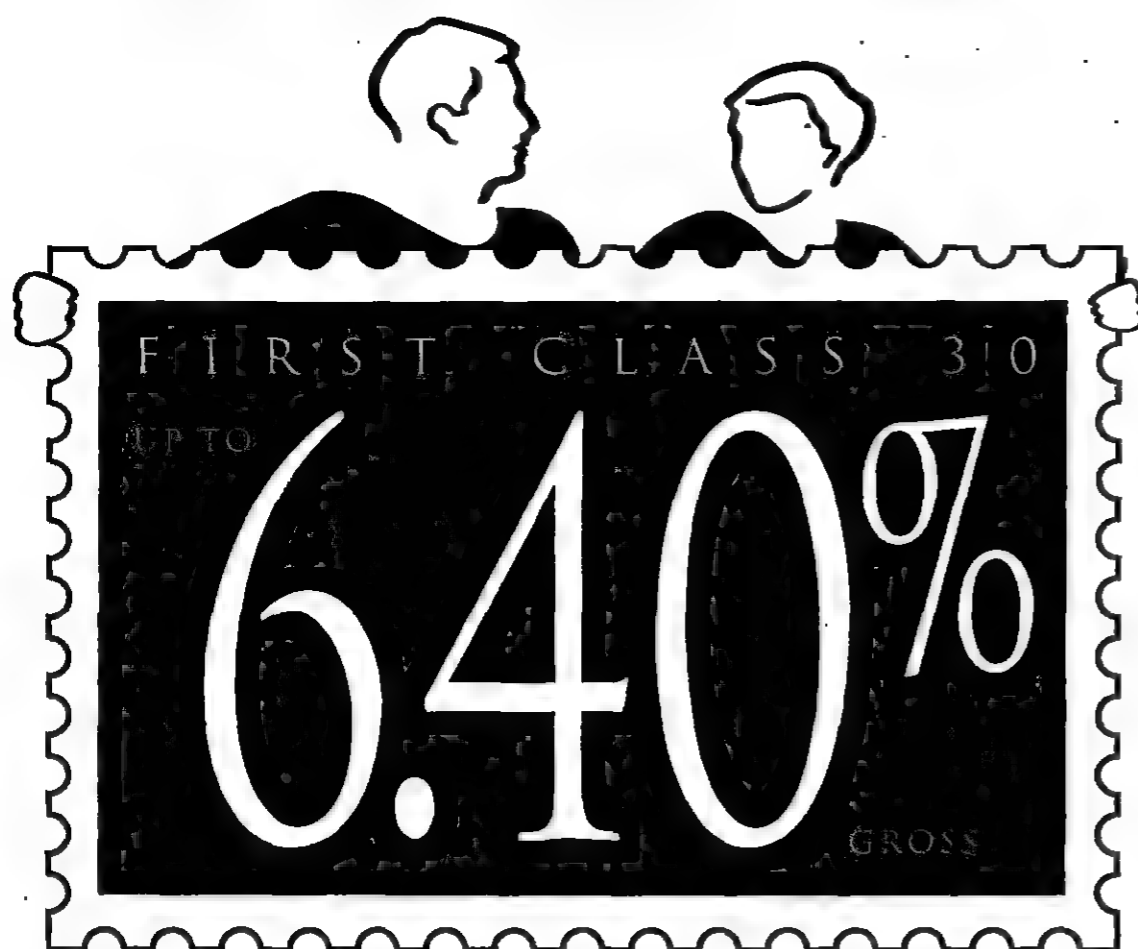
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Keeping track: dealers in Tokyo dare not take their eyes off their screens for a moment — not even for lunch

Cheap 'n' cheerful funds

Caroline Merrell on the merits and disadvantages of trackers

Some fund managers consistently underperform the very indices they are trying to beat. Others underperform some of the time and outperform the rest of the time, while only a tiny proportion manage to achieve above-index returns all the time.

The fact that so many fund managers fail even to keep up with the competing index may lead investors to ponder what the fund managers are doing to earn the annual management charge of typically between 1 and 2 per cent. The only consolation is that on a rolling average over most time periods, investing in shares of companies in the FT-SE All-Share index will produce much better returns than building societies.

According to research carried out on behalf of Virgin Direct — one of the leading advocates of index-tracking funds — the number of fund managers who manage to outperform the index has fallen over the past few years.

This has led to the proliferation of funds which track the index itself. Further research carried out on behalf of HSBC, which has a range of funds which track different indices around the world, shows that 85 per cent of UK fund managers underperform the market. HSBC, Gartmore, Direct Line, and L&G offer index-tracking funds, which will buy the shares in the companies that comprise the index.

One of the biggest advantages of index trackers is that

they are cheap. Many carry no or a very low initial charges, and low annual management charges. For instance, both Fidelity and L&G offer trackers with annual management charges of 0.5 per cent. One of the disadvantages for income seekers investing via an index-tracking fund is that the index will traditionally yield less than a high-income unit trust.

One further disadvantage of trackers is that they are forced to buy the shares of companies, even when the company is clearly in trouble — Polly Peck would be one example of this. The last 15 months show both

advantages and disadvantages of index tracking. In the 12 months to March, index trackers tended towards the top of the performance tables, while in the last three months, their performance has fallen off, in the wake of volatility in the UK market triggered by falls on Wall Street.

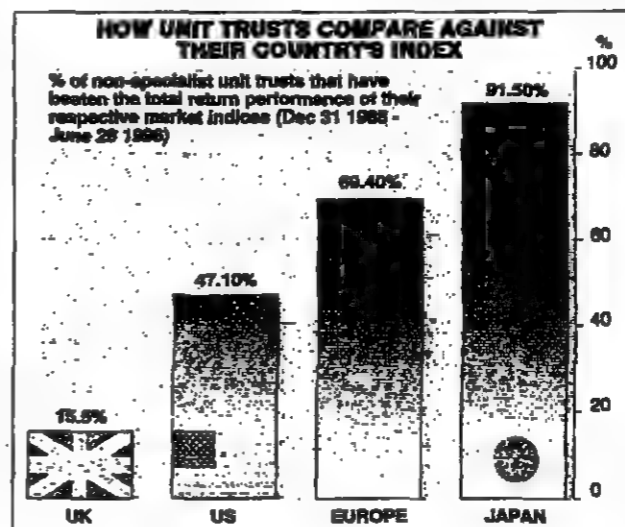
Most financial advisers agree that index trackers do have a role in investors' portfolios, but point out that they would be wrong to rely only on index tracking for investment needs. For instance, the top performing unit trust over the past 12 months has been the

Framlington Health Fund — a sum of £100 invested a year ago would now be worth £176 including charges, while £100 invested in Kleinwort Benson's UK tracking fund would be worth about £118. The former fund is almost 100 per cent invested in American technology and pharmaceutical companies — two of the best performing sectors over the last 12 months.

Framlington Health Fund is also one of the top performing funds over five years — £100 invested five years ago would now be worth £319. Alan Gadd, HSBC managing director, said that investors should only consider investing in index funds in the more mature markets of the world such as the US and the UK. "About 85 per cent of fund managers underperform the market in the UK, compared with Europe where only about 50 per cent of fund managers underperform."

Mr Gadd pointed out, for example, that buying an index-tracking fund which invested in the Japanese market could automatically result in underperformance. The Japanese index is heavily weighted towards the financial companies including the banks and insurance companies.

It is this sector that has been hit the most by the country's five-year recession. The funds that have most outperformed the index are those with a small exposure to financial companies.



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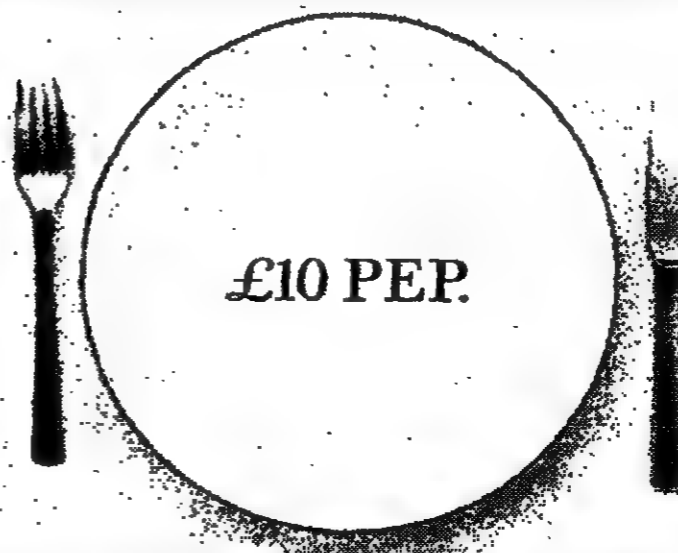
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Sids are out of their depth

After seeing the value of their shares in British Energy drop by 10 per cent in the first hours of trading, small investors have been given a hard reminder of the vagaries of the stock market.

The shares climbed this week to about 100p, equivalent to the original offer price, but way short of the gains investors had hoped for. While privatisations have come to the UK market at regular intervals, the number of people actually holding shares has declined. The peak of share ownership was in 1991, when 11 million people were shareholders; now there are nine million.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, director of Barclays Stockbrokers, believes British Energy was a turning point. "British Energy and Railtrack were not the sort of issue that Sid, the archetypal small investor, should have gone for. The market is polarising: Sids are returning to building societies, leaving equities to sophisticated investors."

However, the impending flotation of the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester building societies and Abbey National's takeover of N&P will bring an extra nine million shareholders into what some regard as an increasingly hostile environment.

Since January, new issues worth more than £50 million are no longer offered automatically to the public; and the advent of Crest, the paperless share-dealing system, means investors will pay more to be sent share certificates rather than hold nominee accounts with stockbroking firms.

Below, Weekend Money examines how small investors fare in America, and looks at new ways of encouraging wider share ownership.

Information cheap in the land of the free

You do not have to be rich or employ a private broker to have access to information in the US.

Charles Schwab, one of the biggest US discount brokers, is not unique in the range of services it offers small investors. As soon as an investor opens a Schwab account, he or she has access to a registered representative, usually a broker, by telephone, 24 hours a day. The broker will be able to tell the investor how a share or portfolio is performing and why. The representative can also answer questions about customer accounts.

Tom Hendrickson, head of business development in the UK, says: "This service is very popular in the US. If a client can't make sense of something there is always someone there who will explain things."

Schwab also offers a research on request service for history on a company. The

history on a company. The basic charge is \$3, but customers can buy pre-paid units of research, with prices as low as \$1.50 each when 100 units are bought. The unit includes earnings history and news stories on individual companies from Schwab's research department using sources such as Reuters, Bloomberg and Dow Jones. Investors then have to digest the information without the help of a traditional broker. Schwab will not advise investors whether to buy or sell.

Schwab also has a telebroker service, where customers use a touchtone telephone to trade and receive a 10 per cent discount for their efforts. Schwab also has port-

folio management software that allows investors to monitor their portfolios and to save 10 per cent on commission. They can also create portfolios of shares they do not own but want to follow. The software gives access to stock quotes and information from the Dow Jones news wire service. The company also has an e-mail trading base and web trading available in the US through the Internet.

In fact, there are many web sites in the US dedicated to the private investor that offer access to relatively inexpensive research. Schwab, like other dis-

search. Schwab, like other discount brokers, acts as a custodian for the investor. In the US, unlike the UK, the custodian is obliged to pass on all company information to investors. Customers have the same benefits they would get if the shares were held in their own name and they do not have to pay extra for the privilege.

When it comes to costs, US investors also come out ahead. Most discount brokers offer mutual funds, the equivalent of unit or investment trusts, with no extra charges on buying into the funds. Instead, brokers make money by receiving a share of the fund's annual fee. Even trading fees are comparatively low. Schwab says a typical trade of 100 shares at £75 a share would incur fees of £55.

Any money that goes into a Schwab account automatically goes into a money market account, earning 4.79 per cent, for a basic brokerage account, until it is invested.

KAREN ZAGOR

'Give investors a break'

Should investors be encouraged to buy shares with tax breaks? Some stockbrokers believe they should be rewarded in the same way as people with personal pensions and be given tax relief at their highest rate.

People who put their shares into personal equity plans (Peps) get tax-free income. In addition, all investors are allowed to make a tax-free capital gain of up to £6,300 each year. However, they do not get tax breaks on their contributions towards the funds in the Pep.

ProShare, which lobbies for greater direct equity investment, contrasts the upfront tax advantages offered by a pension fund with the

Lack of tax relief in building a share portfolio:

Stuart Valentine, ProShare research director, says risk-takers in equities should be rewarded with lower rates of tax on their equities. He favours separating capital gains tax (CGT) rates from income tax rates, returning to the position before 1988 when Nigel Lawson as Chancellor harmonised the two.

Mr Valentine says: "There is no logic in taxing risk capital at the same rate as regular income — lower rates are needed to reward risk-takers."

So instead of paying CGT at the same rate as your highest rate of income tax, Mr Valentine suggests capital gains above an agreed

threshold be taxed at a flat rate. Since ordinary dividends are declared net of 20 per cent tax, he favours levying CGT at the same rate. He says: "Even 25 per cent would probably be less than the income tax paid by many investors."

The Weinberg Committee, an independent think tank, has been looking at ways to reverse the decline in small shareholdings and also suggests tax rules should be simplified. Sir Mark Weinberg, who chairs the committee, believes concerns over having to pay CGT discourage people from buying equities.

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Fine art 'connoisseurs' pay £1bn visit to English country houses



Gotcha: a Rubens turned up in Miami and arrests followed

Scotland Yard has two warehouses filled with unclaimed stolen works of art recovered by the police — testament to the high levels of crime experienced by UK householders.

Although the drive against theft in the inner cities has had an impact, theft in the shires, of antiques and paintings from country houses, is on the increase.

According to the latest figures, it is estimated that paintings worth about £1 billion are stolen each year. Many owners find they do not have enough cover when they come to claim on their insurance.

A recent survey from Hiscox, a specialist in fine art insurance, found that about 53 per cent of owners of high value homes in the UK admit to having art, antiques and valuables which have either been valued for insurance purposes more than three years ago, or in the case of a third of them have not been valued at all. Fourteen per cent of those surveyed admitted carrying no insurance on their valuables. Many are discouraged by the prohibitive cost. For example, insuring £5 million of possessions could cost about £10,000 a year in premiums.

Peter Gwynn, principal security surveyor at Hiscox, said that it was impossible to say whether fine art theft was on the increase, as

the Association of British Insurers did not release separate statistics.

He said: "There does seem to be a decrease in theft from inner cities with more emphasis on crime in the shires." He said that in particular there had been an increase in theft of garden statuary. It is particularly difficult to ensure items in gardens are well protected.

Those who own a number of valuable items are likely to find their usual household insurer has loaded premiums because it feels the risk

the better understanding we can have and the closer we can underwrite it. To qualify for the policy the individual should have £50,000 of valuables and a building worth at least £100,000. Each premium rate will be set on its own merits. The risk and previous claims will come in to that. We managed to save one person £1,000 a year in premiums."

Many insurers will insist on the insured buying a comprehensive alarm system. Many will also insist on a comprehensive photo-

graphical record being kept of all items. Keeping a complete record will help the police to track down and recover stolen items because the photographs can be circulated to the international auction houses. For example, Mr Gwynn points out that there are about 20 stolen Picassos, which have simply vanished.

Without a photographic record, it may be very difficult to connect the stolen items to the correct owner. The Metropolitan Police has two warehouses full of stolen goods which are

unclaimed. Some of these items eventually find their way into so-called Aladdin's caves — ranges of expensive items which are publicised via the TV and press. Unclaimed items are eventually auctioned and the proceeds end up in the Treasury's coffers. The police could not say how much money was raised through this method.

Retrieval of fine art and paintings has been considerably helped by the Art Loss Register — an international database of stolen art, antiques and valuables.

In the event of a theft, details of the stolen objects are supplied to the register by the subscribing insurance companies, loss adjusters, police, museums, art galleries and anybody who has suffered a theft. Auction houses subscribe to the register which means that the origins of items can be checked out.

From 1991 to 1995, the Art Loss Register recovered directly 700 items worth £17 million. It also managed to recover a further 3,500 associated items.

Last year the register was responsible for the retrieval of a Rubens oil sketch, which was stolen from the Spanish town of La Coruña. The sketch reappeared some time later in Miami with a price tag of \$3.5 million. Customs contacted the register, found the sketch was stolen and apprehended the thieves.

A third of homeowners with art, antiques and valuables have never had insurance valuations

of claims is bigger than normal. Specialist insurers and insurance brokers claim to be able to cut insurance premiums by up to 10 per cent. The cost depends on the type of item to be insured and how susceptible it is to fire and flood damage.

Terry Wilson, manager of Highline, a Norwich Union policy aimed at high net worth individuals said: "It is specifically designed for each individual client. It is a bespoke service. The more information we are given on the risk,

graphic record being kept of all items. Keeping a complete record will help the police to track down and recover stolen items because the photographs can be circulated to the international auction houses. For example, Mr Gwynn points out that there are about 20 stolen Picassos, which have simply vanished.

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- Today, Clerical Medical Investment Group manages funds of around £13 billion. Such financial strength represents real security for you and your money.
- ProVision puts top priority on the value of a long-term relationship with you, rather than immediate sales. That means that the entire service is guaranteed to work at your pace, not ours, and that you will never be put under any "hard sell" pressure to buy

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Firm end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
125	125	Alco	125	0.0	11.1
126	126	Alco	126	0.8	11.1
127	127	Alco	127	0.8	11.1
128	128	Alco	128	0.8	11.1
129	129	Alco	129	0.8	11.1
130	130	Alco	130	0.8	11.1
131	131	Alco	131	0.8	11.1
132	132	Alco	132	0.8	11.1
133	133	Alco	133	0.8	11.1
134	134	Alco	134	0.8	11.1
135	135	Alco	135	0.8	11.1

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
136	136	Alco	136	0.8	11.1
137	137	Alco	137	0.8	11.1
138	138	Alco	138	0.8	11.1
139	139	Alco	139	0.8	11.1
140	140	Alco	140	0.8	11.1
141	141	Alco	141	0.8	11.1
142	142	Alco	142	0.8	11.1
143	143	Alco	143	0.8	11.1
144	144	Alco	144	0.8	11.1
145	145	Alco	145	0.8	11.1
146	146	Alco	146	0.8	11.1

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
147	147	Alco	147	0.8	11.1
148	148	Alco	148	0.8	11.1
149	149	Alco	149	0.8	11.1
150	150	Alco	150	0.8	11.1
151	151	Alco	151	0.8	11.1
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153	153	Alco	153	0.8	11.1
154	154	Alco	154	0.8	11.1
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156	156	Alco	156	0.8	11.1
157	157	Alco	157	0.8	11.1

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
158	158	Alco	158	0.8	11.1
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
169	169	Alco	169	0.8	11.1
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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212	212	Alco	212	0.8	11.1

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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302	302	Alco	302	0.8	11.1

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
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313	313	Alco	313	0.8	11.1

1996	Low	Company	Price	%	PE
314	314	Alco	314	0.8	11.1
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317	317	Alco	317	0.8	11.1
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319	319	Alco	319	0.8	11.1
320	320	Alco	320	0.8	11.1
321	321	Alco	321	0.8	11.1
322	322	Alco	322	0.8	11.1
323					

Last Second can time challenge to perfection

GOODWOOD

2.00: My Lewica is the form choice judged on her second behind Missile at Newmarket, but Peter Harris's yard has gone a month without a winner. Russian Missile did not get the best of rides behind Hammerstein at Ascot and can reverse the form on 4th better terms.

2.30: Top-weights win more than their fair share of the early nurseries and Double Ark can become the third such winner at Goodwood this week from a plum high draw. She made all the running when landing a similar event at Ayr. The main threat may come from Sun O'Tirol, who won well at Folkestone.

3.10: This race has been kind to favourite backers down the years, and Last Second can continue the trend after nearly landing a huge gamble at Royal Ascot in the Coronation Stakes. She showed a fine turn of foot that day and her breeding suggests today's extra quarter-mile is within her compass. Mezzogiorno was third to Lady Carla in the Oaks before disappointing in France and Whitewater Affair, winner of the Lape Stakes here, is a bigger danger.

3.45: see facing page.

RICHARD EVANS

NEWMARKET CHANNEL 4

3.05: Moonshiner is the first foal of Marling, by Irish River. Bachelors Pad is also bred to be sharp but Mowood and Home Alone hail from stables whose juveniles tend to improve for their debut. Of those with experience, Olive showed promise at Newbury but the form of Musical Pursuits



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Newmarket debut is working out well.

3.35: Sky Dome can complete a quick double for the Tompkins stable. The colt led home the stands' side group at Newmarket last month. That was only good enough for seventh place, but it proved his effectiveness over this trip. Sky Dome can outpoint Snarled Charter, who is not guaranteed the fast pace he requires. This shorter trip may count against Disallowed.

4.10: For Your Eyes Only returns to six furlongs after disappointing over the minimum trip at Royal Ascot. He looks a better prospect than Miss Stamper, who steps up to this trip for the first time. For Old Times Sake faced an impossible task when conceding 12lb to Easycall, subsequently winner of the Richmond Stakes. However, Demolition Man, an easy Haydock winner, makes most appeal.

4.40: Ops Pettie, who met with interference at Ascot, has obvious claims but Ball Gown could prove too strong. The mare showed herself in a favourable light at Goodwood, finishing fifth in much stronger company. Bardonia Hill Boy could play a part now that he tackles his best trip. Stately Dancer may have found 12 furlongs beyond him last time.

JULIAN MUSCAT

Goodwood

Going: good to firm

2.15 (m) 1. GREEN BARRIER (R. Hills, 10-1), 2. DANCING QUEEN (M. Dwyer, 6-1), 3. MISS BARRICADE (R. Hills, 11-1), 4. UNDISCOVERED (D. Holland, 20-1), 5. ALSO RAN: 13-20 Dan Doran, 15-2 High Summer, 10-1 Royal Mail, 14-1 L. M. 19, 16-1 Albert The Bear (R. Hills, 10-1), 17-1 Caracaras, 20-1 Royal Mail, 21-1 L. M. 19, 22-1 L. M. 19, 23-1 L. M. 19, 24-1 L. M. 19, 25-1 L. M. 19, 26-1 L. M. 19, 27-1 L. M. 19, 28-1 L. M. 19, 29-1 L. M. 19, 30-1 L. M. 19, 31-1 L. M. 19, 32-1 L. M. 19, 33-1 L. M. 19, 34-1 L. M. 19, 35-1 L. M. 19, 36-1 L. M. 19, 37-1 L. M. 19, 38-1 L. M. 19, 39-1 L. M. 19, 40-1 L. M. 19, 41-1 L. M. 19, 42-1 L. M. 19, 43-1 L. M. 19, 44-1 L. M. 19, 45-1 L. M. 19, 46-1 L. M. 19, 47-1 L. M. 19, 48-1 L. M. 19, 49-1 L. M. 19, 50-1 L. M. 19, 51-1 L. M. 19, 52-1 L. M. 19, 53-1 L. M. 19, 54-1 L. M. 19, 55-1 L. M. 19, 56-1 L. M. 19, 57-1 L. M. 19, 58-1 L. M. 19, 59-1 L. M. 19, 60-1 L. M. 19, 61-1 L. M. 19, 62-1 L. M. 19, 63-1 L. M. 19, 64-1 L. M. 19, 65-1 L. M. 19, 66-1 L. M. 19, 67-1 L. 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ATLANTA 96: THE COMPLETE GUIDE



While British riders have failed to impress at these Olympic Games, British trainers working abroad have had praise heaped upon them. After Mark Phillips's successful training of the United States three-day event team — who attributed their silver medal largely to his guidance — Thursday's showjumping team contest saw the Spanish, under the management of David Broome, finishing in fifth place, some six places above Great Britain. Broome, a former world champion and the winner of two individual Olympic bronze medals for Great Britain during his illustrious 35-year career, took on the Spanish after the Barcelona Olympic Games. Since then Broome, 56, has also been appointed chairman of the British Show Jumping Association — a role which took a back seat in Thursday's team contest as Broome busied himself putting up practice poles for the highly focused Spain squad, while Britain's own Olympic showjumping fortunes sank to their lowest ebb for 26 years. JM

HOT SPOT

The victory in the 4 x 400 metres relay in Tokyo by the Great Britain team in the world championships of 1981 is one of the enduring memories of recent sporting history. Today the national squad attempts to repeat that performance, with silver medal-winner Roger Black as the example to follow. With Michael Johnson lining up for the United States, it will not be easy. TV: BBC1 from 9.15pm

It ought to be one big party down at Lake Lanier. No fewer than eight canoeists have celebrated their birthday this week: Livski, of Germany; Holman and Roander, of Norway; Busto, of Spain; Sylves, of France; Tarhes, of Hungary; Hejda, of the Czech Republic; and Phillips, of the United States. But the only bubbly they are likely to see before next week will be that marking the finish line. An air hose on the floor of the lake is pumping air to the surface (to make things visibly easier for the competitors) for the first time in Olympic competition, the innovation having first been used at the world championships in Duisberg, in 1993. The sport is also about to make another visible change by removing protection from those up the creek without a paddle: once wooden, paddles are now made of carbon fibre and, with no breaks in the past ten years, there is no longer a need to mark with blue buoys the 25-metre limit line, up to which races are cancelled if a competitor breaks a paddle. CL

Marie-José Pérec, of France, and Michael Johnson, of the United States, are the second and third athletes to complete the 200-400 metres Olympic double. The first, Valerie Brisco-Hooks, accomplished it in 1984 in Los Angeles, her home town. She won a third gold medal in the 4 x 400 metres relay but, almost immediately, she lost one. She had it stolen from her bag as she travelled to compete in Berlin — it was little more than a year after giving birth that Brisco-Hooks took advantage of the Communist bloc boycott to defend the unprecedented feat; but she still had to beat Florence Griffith-Joyner and Merlene Ottey, among others, in the 200 metres. However, unlike Pérec and Johnson, she did not become a marketing darling. "It was a different world 12 years ago," she said. "Corporate America was just getting involved in track and field." After giving birth, Brisco-Hooks had to lose 40lb. She did it by running on the spot in her bathroom, with a hot shower on to build up steam. DP

Stig Westergaard, the Denmark Soling skipper, has a healthy sense of humour — and it is probably just as well. When he arrived in Savannah, he found that his British-built yacht was illegal. It had been built using insufficient weight of material in its hull and he had to race in the Spanish team's reserve boat instead. This is roughly equivalent to an equestrian rider attempting a three-day event on someone else's horse. Remarkably, Westergaard still made it into the match racing knockout stage, where he was beaten 3-2 by Andy Beadsworth, of Great Britain. Throughout the regatta his original boat, which was named *When Rock 'n' Roll Dreams Come True*, has been sitting by the Denmark team container, looking rather forlorn. Westergaard has drawn an eye with teeth dripping from it on the port hull. Above it he has written in black felt tip, "What am I?" — an ironic reference to the conclusion by the International Yacht Racing Union that it is not a Soling fit to race at the 1996 Olympic Games. EG

MEDAL TABLE					
	Gold	Silver	Brass		
United States	28	31	36	Poland	2
France	26	16	11	Norway	2
China	16	6	11	Germany	2
Germany	14	9	14	Sweden	2
Italy	12	9	28	Spain	2
Australia	11	6	8	Japan	2
United States	10	9	8	Cuba	2
South Korea	8	6	8	Belarus	2
Poland	8	6	8	Belarus	2
Romania	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Hungary	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Greece	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Switzerland	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Japan	4	4	4	Belarus	2
New Zealand	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Spain	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Canada	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Denmark	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Turkey	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Czech Republic	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Holland	4	4	4	Belarus	2
North Korea	4	4	4	Belarus	2
South Korea	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Ethiopia	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Belarus	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Great Britain	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Sweden	4	4	4	Belarus	2
Czech Republic	4	4	4	Belarus	2

Reports: Jenny MacArthur, David Powell, Edward Gorman

Weather: hot Humidity: 92% Temperature: 70F

The United States expects success and, in most sports at these Games its competitors have achieved it. One exception is hockey, or field hockey as the Americans call it. The US finished last in the 12-nation tournament. Their coach is Jon Clark, a Briton, who embarrassed the American authorities by claiming on his CV that he had played 247 times for England and Great Britain. In fact he played once for England. However, the Americans enjoy his humour — after the 3-0 defeat by South Africa, he described his mood as "wild, bordering on the sarcastic". He added: "We lived by the new rules of hockey, every time you get into your opponents' half you meekly give up the ball." He said of his team's performance: "We have tried the intellectual approach and so far it hasn't worked. The IQ thermometer has slipped its temperature around the goal." When told that the game was, at least, entertaining, he replied: "It was entertaining — in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth." JG

Reaching the final of the Olympic football tournament against Argentina today has clearly not pacified critics in the Nigerian press. Jo Bonfrere, the Dutch coach of the Olympic side, was asked in the press conference after Nigeria's 4-3 victory over Brazil why he was selecting players who were not in form. The combative Dutchman's response was forthright. "This is a question from the Nigerian press, who did not like us reaching the Olympic final. It is a stupid question. It doesn't matter whether your players have one or two legs as long as they win," he said. In the women's tournament, all has been sweetness and light. A crowd of 75,481 watched the United States beat China 2-1 in the final, the largest ever for a women's match. The only casualty has been the private hedge which surrounded the stadium. It had to be dug up to fit the wider dimensions of the football pitch. All is not lost, though: cuttings were taken two years ago and the hedge will be replanted once the football has finished. AL

THIS WEEKEND AT THE GAMES

All times BST

Today

ATHLETICS: Finals: Men: Javelin (23.55); 4 x 100m relay (00.20); 1,500m (00.50); 5,000m (01.40); 4 x 400m relay (02.40); Women: High jump (23.30); 4 x 100m relay (00.00); 1,500m (01.15); 4 x 400m relay (02.15).
BASKETBALL: Men: Bronze medal match (01.00) and final (03.00). Women: Play-offs (15.00, 17.00, 20.00 and 22.00).
BOXING: Finals: Light-flyweight, bantam-

weight, lightweight, welterweight, middleweight and heavyweight (from 18.30).
CANOEING: Sprint finals: Men's 1,000m K1 (14.00); men's 1,000m C1 (14.25); women's 500m K4 (14.50); men's 1,000m K2 (15.15); men's 1,000m C2 (15.40); men's 1,000m K4 (16.05).
CYCLING: Individual time-trials: men (13.30) and women (17.45).
EQUESTRIANISM: Individual dressage final (14.00).
FOOTBALL: Men: Final (20.30).
GYMNASTICS: Women's individual rhythmic, semi-finals (15.00).

HANDBALL: Women's bronze medal match and final (20.30).
TENNIS: Men's singles, bronze medal match (15.00) and final (18.00); women's doubles, final (21.00).
VOLLEYBALL: Women's bronze medal match and final (17.00).
Tomorrow
ATHLETICS: Men's marathon (12.05).
BASKETBALL: Women's bronze medal match (13.30) and final (18.30).
BOXING: Finals: Flyweight, featherweight,

light-welterweight, light-middleweight, light-heavyweight, super-heavyweight (from 18.30).
CANOEING: Sprint finals (all 500m): Men's K1 (14.00); men's C1 (14.20); women's K1 (14.40); men's K2 (15.00); men's C2 (15.20); women's K2 (15.40).
EQUESTRIANISM: Individual showjumping (15.00 and 19.00).
GYMNASTICS: Women's individual rhythmic, final (18.00).
HANDBALL: Men's bronze medal match and final (19.30).
VOLLEYBALL: Men's bronze medal match and final (17.00).

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1

Today: 8.0-11.0am, 12.30-5.10pm, 9.15pm-4.25am. Tomorrow: 8.0-10.0am, 6.25-9.30pm, 11.15pm-5.0am.

BBC2

Today: 5.10-9.15pm. Tomorrow: 12.0-6.25pm.
Eurosport
24-hour coverage

Panasonic

Official Worldwide Sponsor
1996 Olympic Games



OLYMPIC GAMES: CUBAN BOXER SEEKS SPARK TO RETAIN TITLE AND REALISE HIS OWN GOLD DREAM

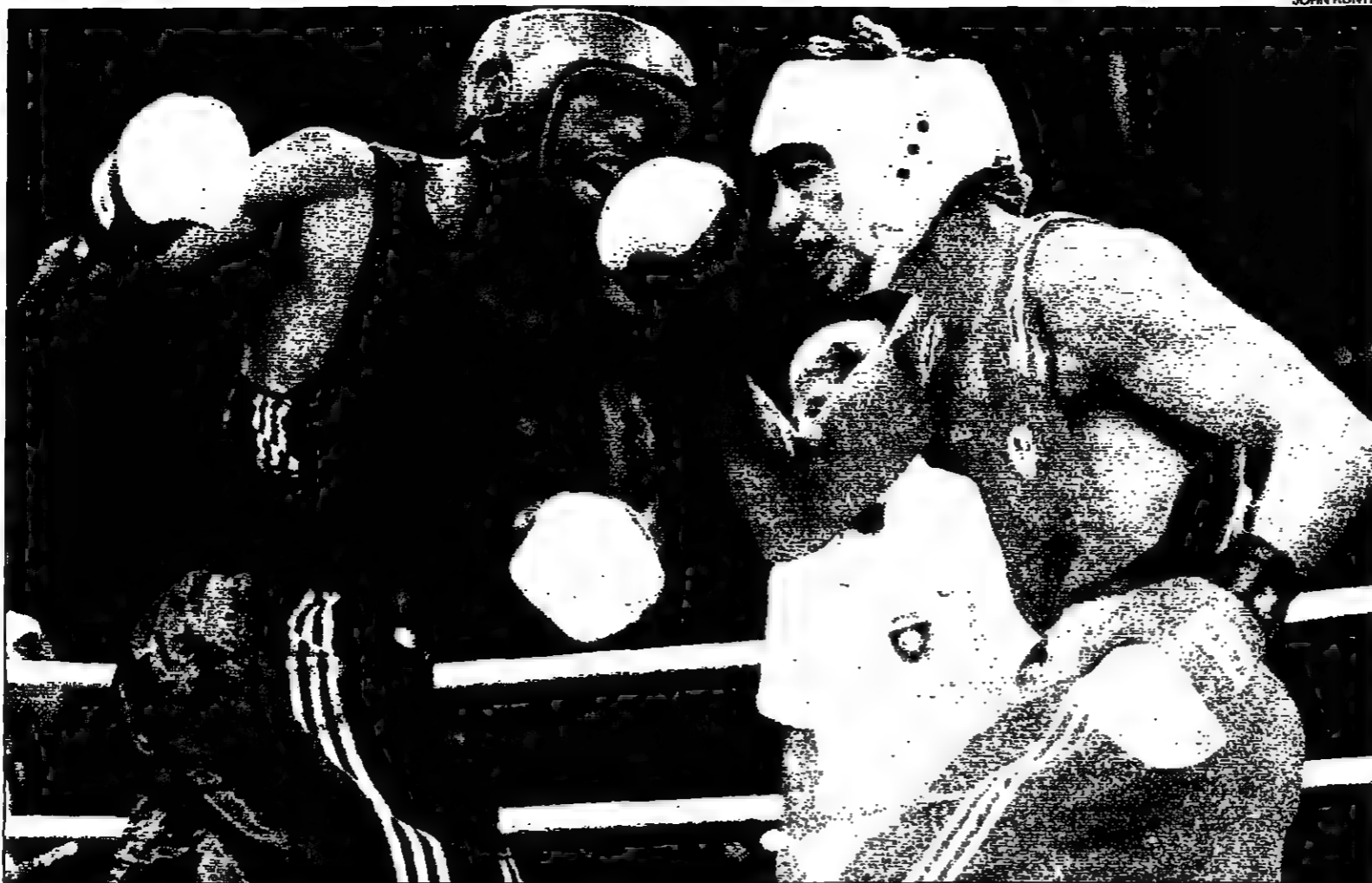
Hernandez tiring of same punchline

One country has
become dominant in
Olympic boxing, says
Andrew Longmore

IN an album in his house outside Pinar del Rio, Ariel Hernandez keeps a wisp of bloodied cotton wool tucked between the photographs of his life. It reminds the Cuban middleweight, who many regard as the best pound-for-pound amateur boxer in the world, of his friend and mentor, Roberto Balado, the super-heavyweight gold medal-winner at Barcelona, who was killed in a road accident two years ago. Hernandez was at Balado's bedside when he died. He found the cotton wool in his hand when he got home. There has been little to shout about in the boxing arena over the past ten days. The standard is low, the scoring system oblique, the refereeing absurdly pedantic and the Cubans are professionals when everyone else, bar a few of the German soldiers, are amateurs.

Even Hernandez, you sense, is beginning to lose interest. Several times during his Olympic preparations, he disappeared from the Cubans' training headquarters at La Finca, a farmhouse outside Havana, and, in his semi-final victory over the United States middleweight champion, Roshii Wells, he seemed to be boxing in his sleep. When comparisons to Sugar Ray Leonard and Roy Jones fall so easily from the lips of respected judges, when you have a brand new white Lada in the garage, respect from everyone on the streets of Havana and an Olympic gold in the cabinet, what pleasure is there in beating up a raw 19-year-old from Riverdale, Georgia?

"I sense he is getting tired," Jesse Ravallo, assistant coach of the United States team, said in the aftermath of Hernandez's 17-8 points win over Wells. "He's been doing this a long time now. After a while, the motivation goes." Hernandez is only 24, but



A Cuban welterweight, left, takes some punishment before achieving another victory for his country, who have dominated the boxing tournament

Ravallo should know. He defected from Cuba after winning gold at the Pan-American games in Winnipeg in 1967. "If Ariel turned pro, he could be as good as Roy Jones. He's so quick, such a smart fighter, he makes you do things you don't want to do then picks on your mistakes. Our guys are too inexperienced. The Cubans just go on from Olympics to Olympics, they intimidate a lot of their opponents before they step into the ring."

In a bizarre conclusion to the evening, Felix Savon, five-times world champion heavyweight, came into the ring for his semi-final, put on his gloves and head protector and found no one in the opposite

corner. One report had it that his opponent, Luan Krasniqi, of Germany, was forbidden to fight by the team doctor after suffering from an injured hand and a cut under his eye; another that the German had simply decided to settle for gold. Few would care to blame him, but the dominance of the Cubans bodes ill for the Olympic future of boxing.

We should enjoy Hernandez while we can. Ravallo believes he is the ideal product of the Cuban system. "They like to get them tall and lean, with fast feet and quick hands. Hernandez has all those qualities," he said.

The Cubans are a good act.

They come to the ring wearing the glitziest dressing-gowns, they bow, they usually win, they bow again, despite the jeers, and they go, without saying a word. None of the Cuban team will talk to the press. Hernandez always presents his opponent with a pennant before his bouts and goes over to the opposite corner to shake his opponent's hand, a gesture which clearly disconcerted young Wells.

Before the fight, the young American heard how his coaches wanted him to box. Go out and jump on him, they said, but Wells was only 19 and in his first Olympics he was up against the best Cuban fighter of his generation.

Jump on him? Wells came out, caution on his mind, hands held high. Hernandez, with a longer reach and a faster punch, picked him off at long range from his southpaw stance. By the time, Wells had remembered what he was supposed to do, Hernandez was up and away.

"We had two choices," Ravallo said. "We could make it a boring fight or go out and pressure him. We changed our strategy. We wanted Roshii to have a rumble with him, but Hernandez was too smart. He did what he had to do and then did nothing." Another two rounds, Ravallo said, and the result might have been different. He was kidding no

one, not even himself. Wells was unimpressed. "He's just an ordinary boxer who moves good. He ain't as good as everyone thinks he is," he said. The problem is that no one will know how good Hernandez really is. He is the property of the Cuban government, paid and protected by the Castro regime. Tonight, he will defend his Olympic title against Malik Beyleroglu, of Turkey. Gold should be a formality, but his real ambition is to have his picture mounted on the Wall of Champions in the trophy room at La Finca. Only three other boxers have made it: Teofilo Stephens, Savon and, of course, Balado.

Britain fail to realise great expectations

Jenny MacArthur looks at the reasons for failures in equestrianism in Atlanta

RONNIE MASSARELLA'S summing up of his show-jumping team's performance in Thursday's team contest, where they finished joint-eleventh, their worst Olympic result since the Games in Rome in 1960, could apply to the entire British equestrian effort in Atlanta. "Everything's gone wrong," he complained. "We came with great expectations and ended with nothing."

As the formidable German team, winners of the gold medal in Seoul, swept to victory ahead of the United States, and while Brazil, the bronze medal-winners, celebrated their first Olympic equestrian medal, the British were left to wonder how a team containing three of the best riders in the world had failed so completely to perform when it mattered most.

Nick Skelton, whose opening eight faults on Showtime started the downward spiral, had no excuses. "I'm still trying to work out what went wrong," he said. Michael Whitaker's Two Step was a disaster from the start. The 13-year-old gelding, who won the £100,000 Caligary Grand Prix and the European championships silver medal last year, was intimidated each time he entered the stadium.

Geoff Billington was the only rider to have a clear round, but that came too late to compensate for his opening 12 faults on It's Otto. When the usually reliable John Whitaker, on Welham, collected 12.75 faults in the second round, refusing at the final fence, Great Britain's humiliation was complete.

Massarella thought the team may have "molly-

coddled" the horses too much since their arrival in Atlanta three weeks ago. "We may not have jumped them enough," he said. "At home, they jumped nearly every day, but here we were worried that the weather might take it out of them so we tended not to overjump them."

Undoubtedly, the Germans, with their highly-structured breeding programme, have more horses to choose from. The incomparable Ludger Beerbaum, who defends his individual Olympic title tomorrow, repeatedly deferred praise for his two faultless rounds on Thursday to his mare, Ratina. "She's the best in the world," he said. "What can make you more confident than knowing your horse is capable of jumping anything?"

However, a more significant reason for the German victory was hinted at by Herbert Meyer, their trainer, who, when asked the secret of his team's success, said: "We work together for a long time. We planned these Olympic Games four years ago."

Such was their planning that even an early disaster, when their world champion, Franke Sloothak, fell and retired, could be overcome.

This is the lesson which Michael Bates, chairman of the British Equestrian Federation, is taking home. "We must analyse what went wrong and then, on Tuesday, start a four-year plan. It has cost more than £400,000 to send our three teams out here and we are all going to go back a little embarrassed."

Skelton, John Whitaker and Billington all compete tomorrow in the individual showjumping contest, the final equestrian event.

Beadsworth loses gold opportunity

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN SAVANNAH

ANDY BEADSWORTH, Barry Parkin and Adrian Stead, the Great Britain crew, fell out of the battle for gold and silver in the Soling class yesterday after losing 3-0 to the German, Jochen Schumann. This left the Britons in a sail-off for bronze against the American crew led by Jeff Madrigali, who had also lost 3-0 to the Russian Georgy Shayduko.

Beadsworth, who was visibly angry after losing to Schumann, got his act together in the first race against the Americans. He won the start and had a good lead during the first two legs. Madrigali caught up to within five boat lengths up the second beat, but Beadsworth held on to win by that margin.

With the breeze dropping to three knots, racing was then postponed. This left Beadsworth in position to claim the bronze medal by virtue of that single victory, if there was no further racing. This result would confirm Great Britain as the only nation apart from Brazil to have won three medals in yachting at these Games.

It was always going to be a tall order against Schumann for a place in the final. The German had come here with superior boat speed and steady nerves. He won the fleet racing with six top-five finishes and then used his speed to good effect against

Beadsworth in the first two races.

Britain's three-time national match-racing champion must have been hoping for a replay of his recovery from 2-0 down against Stig Westergaard, of Denmark, in the quarter-finals, as he crossed the start line to windward and pointing higher than the German. By the windward mark he was two boat lengths ahead but then Schumann turned it on down the run, sailing through to windward.

Schumann was inside at the mark and a boat length ahead. Then, two thirds of the way up the beat came the moment when Beadsworth's hopes of gold were dashed. Ahead and to leeward, he tacked onto port too close to the German on starboard, who had to alter course. Beadsworth lost the ensuing protest and could not win with a penalty from there.

In the final, Shayduko a former European and world champion in the Flying Dutchman class, appeared to have the first race sown up against Schumann as he led the German by 18 seconds at the leeward mark. But Schumann then sailed an incredible beat to convert what appeared to be a hopeless position into a 12-second lead at the second windward mark. He then won comfortably to have the psychological advantage going into race two.

Athletics manager with the Midas touch

David Powell meets the failed footballer who has contributed to the golden achievements of some of the world's best athletes

Brad Hunt remembers his days as an apprentice goalkeeper with Aberdeen Football Club.

"Grey skies, soft grass, a lot of mud between the posts," is his main recollection. A far cry from Atlanta's blue skies, token grass and high humidity. How distant is the memory, as he sits in five-star luxury at the Olympic Games, of the little money he lived on, and the modest digs he shared with two other young players, 17 years ago.

Hunt was an "athletic" custodian but never, he admitted, close to making the first team. Yet he has reached the pinnacle as a manager. Not of footballers, but of athletes. Pick your best XI for a world track and field team and, the chances are, Hunt would manage half of them.

As the man who takes between ten and 25 per cent of

commissions on deals he negotiates for Michael Johnson and several other leading athletes, Hunt is a commanding presence in the Olympic shoot-out. "Because of the depth of my client base, I have better odds at gold than they do," he said. Going for gold beats going in goal.

As well as Johnson, Hunt's clients include Dan O'Brien, Jonathan Edwards, Gwen Torrence and Mike Powell. "I do not know if there is another manager who is managing as many million dollar athletes," he said. Probably not.

Johnson's 1996 endorsement contract with Nike is worth \$600,000. O'Brien's with Foot Locker and Nike is worth a similar amount, and

Torrence has a \$3 million deal over four years. Each athlete has several other smaller sponsors and personal appearances on a commercial footing come at between \$10,000 and \$20,000 a day.

Hunt's first step to a business which grossed in excess of \$4 million last year was precipitated by the closure of the football club for which he played after returning home to the United States. He decided to combine his business education with his football knowledge and was taken on by International Management Group (IMG), eventually coming to represent Sebastian Coe.

"That really taught me a lot, how an athlete of his calibre

thinks and prepares for top international competition. Before my first substantive meeting with Seb, I had been given three or four weeks to organise a European schedule for him, my first opportunity to show how hard I was going to work for him. This was the guy who was setting world records in half his races."

"I had spoken with all the meet promoters, had negotiated what I considered to be top appearance fees. Seb just sat back, nodded approvingly, recognising the effort I had put into it. Then he took the pen, took what had been 12 races, put a line through six of them, and gave it back to me. I noticed he had not changed the sub-totals."

Drop out of top six leaves Britain in exile

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

GREAT Britain's hockey campaign in the 1996 Olympic Games ended on Thursday with the men in seventh position and the women losing the bronze medal play-off to Holland after a penalty shoot-out.

The immediate effect of the drop from sixth position by the men's team will be felt by its exclusion from the next two Champions Trophy competitions — at the end of the year in Madras and at Adelaide in 1997. Furthermore, invitations to play in

international tournaments abroad will not be pouring in.

With the break-up of the Olympic team, the immediate need is a rethink on the position of manager and coach and the criteria for selection. From now on, everything will be geared to the 1998 World Cup at Utrecht, in Holland, for which England have already qualified.

The men's event here will be remembered for its early series of shock results, which had a distinct bearing on the qualification for the semi-finals. The 3-0 defeat of Pakistan by Spain

and Argentina's 1-0 victory over India started an Asian slide which led to the failure of both the leading Asian teams to qualify for the semi-finals. South Korea, who began with high hopes, also faded out.

The balance of power shifted to European teams, three of which — Spain, Holland and Germany — qualified for the semi-finals with Australia, whose hopes were extinguished with a 2-1 defeat by Spain. Holland beat Germany 3-1.

In a bruising battle for fifth place yesterday, South Korea finally sub-

dued Pakistan by defeating them 3-1. After losing 4-3 to Britain, India settled for eighth place, their lowest position in the competition.

Meanwhile, the International Hockey Federation announced changes in the rules. The World Cup-holders will no longer gain automatic qualification for the Olympic. There will be three points for a win instead of two and one for a draw in all future international competition.

The women's event ended on Thursday night with a 3-1 victory for Australia over South Korea in the final.

ATLANTA BRIEFS

Australia's dreams are dashed

THE Dream Team reached the final of the Olympic men's basketball tournament after beating Australia 101-73 in a semi-final that saw the United States team of professional players stretched for the first 15 minutes when the score was 30-36. They meet Yugoslavia in the final today.

"This is the proudest I've been of this team because we had to compete," Charles Barkley, who led the Americans with 24 points, said.

Streetwise

Archery: A Californian student who practises at home by shooting arrows through his garage door from across the street, left the world's best archers trailing to win the Olympic men's gold medal. Routed on by a partisan crowd, Justin Huish, 21, convincingly beat Magnus Petersson, of Sweden, and reaffirmed American dominance in men's target archery.

Home win

Football: A record crowd of more than 75,000 supporters roared the United States to a 2-1 victory over China on Thursday to win the first women's Olympic title. The winning goal came in the 68th minute from Tiffany Milbradt.

MERCURY
0500 500 400

"HOG THE FA

SPAIN

Impossible feat made ridiculously easy

He runs like Groucho Marx chasing a waitress. The same long, parodic strut, feet low to the floor, body and head high and still. It looks ridiculous. It looks impossible. Professor Wagstaff, or Dr Hacken-abush, going for Olympic gold. Where's the cigar?

Aeronautical engineers have proved decisively that bumblebees cannot fly: it should not take too long for students of human motor performance to prove conclusively that Michael Johnson cannot run.

There are some runners — Sebastian Coe was one example — who seem not to touch the track as they run, instead to float just the tiniest fraction above it. Johnson is the opposite. He seems never to lose contact with the track, scraping the soles of his golden shoes along its surface.

It is astonishing to watch. He hardly bothers to lift his knees at all. The body is carried not so much straight as inclined backwards. In outline, he looks like a flying wedge: the shape of the sports car known as the TR7. Sports car enthusiasts will tell you that there was nothing wrong with the TR7 other than the fact that it looked ridiculous and it was not terribly fast.

Johnson is only halfway to being the TR7 of the track. He looks ridiculous all right, but he is seriously fast. "I knew, coming off the curve — you can always tell, coming off the curve to the straight — I knew that I was running faster than I had ever run in my life," he said.

Johnson was the man for whom they had changed the Olympic schedule, which is quite a load to carry in itself. He had already won the 400 metres; this was the second half of an unprecedented double, the 200 metres. To say he won seems a supreme irrelevance now.

His main rivals, Frankie

SIMON BARNES



Atlanta sketch

Fredericks, of Namibia, and Ato Boldon, of Trinidad, ran phenomenally fast, yet they were blown away. Johnson also set a new world record, but that, too, seems a ridiculous understatement.

For the record, too, was blown away: annihilated. This was a Beamesque leap into the realm of the impossible. You simply do not improve world records by such a distance. The old record, set by Johnson himself just six weeks ago in the United States Olympic trials, was 19.66sec, fast enough in all conscience. Johnson improved this to 19.32sec, more than three-tenths of a second.

If his rivals ran phenomenally fast, Johnson ran impossibly fast, leaning backwards, golden shoes skating over the surface. Humans have been running about the earth for countless thousands of years; now, in the closing years of the 20th century, comes a man who has invented a new way of running.

Children, don't you try this at home. Five metres from the end, Johnson felt his hamstring begin to go, as if the human body was really not supposed to go so fast, and was on the brink of exploding. After all, he ran the second 100



The golden spikes that swept Johnson to an unprecedented double and that astonishing time. Photograph: Doug Mills

metres in 9.20sec: the new world record for the 100 metres event, set a week ago here at the Olympic Games by Donovan Bailey, is 9.84sec, slower because it does not have a flying start.

The TR7 was really motoring. "All respect to my friend Donovan," Boldon said afterwards, "but this man here really is the fastest man in the world."

Well, he could have gone faster. "I stumbled out of the blocks, and it cost me a good few hundredths of a second,"

Johnson said. "I've got into the habit of popping up too quick, and not using my arms. I stumbled about the fourth step."

No satisfying some people. But he seemed to find his stride all right; if he learns to start properly and avoid hamstringing wings at the finish, he really might be quite swift one day.

He was in seraphic form afterwards. After the 400 metres, the job half done, he was still tense and wary. But now he has disposed of a huge

burden. "There's never been so much pressure on me my entire life," he said frankly.

"I was afraid I wouldn't get that medal. But for me, being afraid is OK. I like to be afraid. I like to be nervous. And I ran like I was nervous."

These running races are all about the drama of the hunter and the hunted, but it is hard to know which category to put Johnson in. He intimidated from the front, a cheetah running away from a herd of gazelles and leaving them in a state of helpless terror.

It was a majestic performance, a perfect demonstration of the pleasures that sport can bring. Certainly, such moments make one forget one's irritations at the pathetic organisation of these Games.

They also add an important footnote to the sadness of the bombing of Centennial Park. Sport is trivial, and it is not worth anybody's death. But Johnson's night, like all the rare and impossible nights of sport, are about the lifting of the human spirit. We who were there were enriched.

Des one-liners worth their weight in gold

David Coleman has never been a commentator to use one convoluted superlative where a hundred would do. Michael Johnson was not human... Michael Johnson was not of this planet... Michael Johnson was almost certainly a god. Amid this torrent of hyperbole, however, there were inevitably one or two statements that proved irrefutable. Michael Johnson was from Texas... Michael Johnson has just provided one of the great moments in Olympic sport. Back to you in the studio, Des.

Ah, Des. It is moments such as these that bring out the genius in Des Lynam. Where Coleman favours the scattergun approach, Lynam gets there in one. He paused for a well-judged moment of silence and simply said: "You stayed up late tonight. You made the right decision." We had, we did... we were there.

This was what doing the Atlanta Games the hard way, the live way, the late way was all about. The night that Johnson ran fast all the way is what the Centennial Olympics will be remembered for and we had seen it happen. "Beamesque" was how

Paul Dickenson described Inessa Kravets's triple jump, the second longest ever, on Wednesday night. Nonsense — this was Beamesque.

Thursday night was a cracking night for the BBC athletics team. We had Johnson, we had Kelly Holmes winning her 1,500 metres semi-final and we had Marie-José Pérec creating her own, somewhat over-looked, moment of history in the 200 metres. I woke up in the morning half expecting to hear that she had been banned for the use of illegally long legs.

Helped by a well-paced stadium schedule, this was the night that Daley Thompson and David Moorcroft got the opportunity to shine. Brendan Foster also had a busy night, combining his dual role as commentator and track-side interviewer. His interview technique has improved immeasurably in the past few days and, while the speed with which he gathered up first Johnson, then his parents and then his coach was im-



MATTHEW BOND ON THE TELEVISION MARATHON

pressive, even more so was the fact that he didn't ask one of them, "how do you feel?"

Night 14 of our marathon, was the first to begin without Lynam but, when he popped up, true devotees of live Olympic sport were on BBC2 for the bronze medal play-off for women's hockey between Great Britain and Holland. Was it really less than a fortnight since Lynam had leant forward conspiratorially and asked: "Short corners, long corners — do you know about that sort of thing?" I shook my head, but, after one of those helpful Olympic Grandstand guides and four live games in the first three days, I had almost got the hang of it.

Nigel Starmer-Smith has proved a pleasant enough guide, but, as my meagre knowledge grew, I got the distinct impression that his was only a couple of steps ahead. He had mastered the basics, but seemed reluctant or unable to explain specific umpiring decisions. He was also getting pulled up rather too often for comfort by his colleague and resident expert, Cathy Harris.

Late in the second half, Starmer-Smith celebrated a Britain goal from a short corner for a good 15 seconds before Harris whispered in his ear. It was too high. "Something of an anti-climatic moment," our ever-resourceful commentator said. "I guess we were willing it home a little bit too much." I guess we were forgetting the rules, but what do I know?

The game and the bronze medal were lost in a penalty shoot-out. It was Lynam, inevitably, who had the last word: "Not been our year for penalty shoot-outs, has it?"

Boardman must rise to Induráin's mighty challenge

FROM PETER BRYAN

FEW British Olympians face a greater task than Chris Boardman. Roger Black, Iwan Thomas and company have had Michael Johnson to contend with on the track, the swimmers an assortment of untouchables such as Kristina Egerszegi, Alexander Popov and Kieren Perkins. Boardman, however, has Miguel Induráin, five times the winner

of the Tour de France and almost certainly the greatest time-triallist cycling has ever seen.

If the Briton is to repeat his golden performance in Barcelona four years ago, when he dominated the 4,000 metres pursuit on the track, then Induráin has to be overcome on the road today.

The inaugural Olympic 52-kilometre individual cycling time-trial will be held over a 13-kilometre

circuit at Buckhead, north of Atlanta. It is a rolling course, winding through affluent suburbs, and Induráin has ridden it once already this week, when he made little effort in Wednesday's road race.

Boardman, though selected for that event, opted for a day off to conserve his energies for this race — and he does have a good chance of a medal, perhaps even gold. He is seeded No 4, has won a time-trial

prologue in the Tour and, most relevantly, won the world time-trial championship in Sicily in 1994. Induráin, however, did not enter that year. He did in 1995, when Boardman was recovering from serious injuries after a crash in another Tour prologue, and won the title in Colombia. Not surprisingly, the Spaniard is seeded No 1.

Also included in a strong field of 39 are Abraham Olano, of Spain, and

Uwe Peschel, of Germany, who finished second and third in the world championship last year. Evgeni Berzin, of Russia, has withdrawn, but Bjørn Riis, fresh from his Tour de France triumph — ending Induráin's five-year reign — carries Denmark's hopes.

The women's 26-kilometre event closes the cycling programme today, with Yvonne McGregor and Sarah Phillips representing Britain.

FOOTBALL: COLE ADDS TO CHAMPIONS' PROBLEMS BEFORE UMBRO CUP

United face threat to Jordi signing

David Maddock on a new stumbling block to efforts to sign Dutchman

MANCHESTER United's preparations for this weekend's Umbro Cup tournament, and indeed the football season proper, were disrupted yesterday by the news that the transfer of Jordi Cruyff has again hit troubled waters.

The Holland international was due to make his debut for United against Ajax — the club where his father, Johan Cruyff, enjoyed his greatest successes — in the four-team tournament in Nottingham today, but reports from Jordi's club, Barcelona, suggested last night that the deal was in danger of collapse because of a problem with the player's medical.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, responded immediately by insisting that the suggestion was inaccurate, but he did concede that there were still problems with Jordi's contract that were

holding up the proposed £1 million transfer. "It is wrong to say that the deal is off," Ferguson said. "There is no medical problem, the lad is fine, but we are having difficulty over the contract and we are still trying to sort that out. But we do still want to sign the lad and we are doing our best to sort it out quickly. Obviously, he won't be with us for the Umbro tournament, but we are hoping he may be available for the Charity Shield."

The transfer has been dogged by difficulties from the start, with Barcelona twice pulling out of negotiations. This, however, seems a more serious threat than earlier posturings by the Spaniards.

It leaves Ferguson with difficulties for the Umbro tournament, which pits his side against Ajax, Chelsea and Nottingham Forest.

Already he has Pallister, Butt, Giggs, Cole, Sharpe and one of his new signings, Ronnie Johnsen, the Norway defender, on the injured list, with Karel Poborsky, the Czech Republic winger, still to obtain a work permit. Cole is a particular worry, with the news yesterday that the striker has contracted pneumonia and that he will be out of action for at least five weeks.

While the crowd for the tournament will be denied the intriguing sight of Cruyff Jr playing against Ajax, they will at least see Gianluca Vialli.

Chelsea's summer signing from Juventus, the European Cup holders, Vialli has struggled with injury problems and has yet to make his debut, but Rudd Gullit, the Chelsea manager, confirmed he would be playing in today's second match, against Forest.

"Gianluca wanted to play for us against Wolves the other night, but I thought it was a little bit too early," Gullit said. "He has worked his way back from a few muscle strains and he looks very good now, so he'll definitely take some part."

Spectators at the Umbro Cup will be treated to many of the leading figures of Euro '96 earlier in the summer, including Nikola Jerkan, of Croatia, who will make his debut for Forest. The winners of today's two matches at the City Ground will contest the final tomorrow.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today CRICKET

Britannia Assurance county championship
11.0, third day of four, 104 overs minimum
DERBY: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire
CANTERBURY: Kent v Worcestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire
LORDS: Middlesex v Essex
WORKSOP: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan
TAUNTON: Somerset v Hampshire
EASTBOURNE: Sussex v Yorkshire

Tetley Challenge Series
11.0, third day of four
THE OVAL: Surrey v South Africa A

DERBY: DERBY BENEFIT MATCH: Edgbaston (one day, Warwickshire v Warwickshire)

FIRST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (third day of four) Old Trafford: England v New Zealand

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Scottish Coca-Cola Cup

Albion v Arbroath
Ayr v Livingston
Brechin v Montrose
Dundee v Inverness Caledonian Thistle
Cowdenbeath v Forfar
East Stirling v Alloa
Queen's Park v Ross County
Stranraer v Queen of South

Umbro Cup
Manchester Utd v Ajax
1st City Ground, Nottingham, 1.0
Chelsea v Nottingham Forest
(at City Ground, Nottingham, 3.30)

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Ballynahinch v Carrick, 1.0
Carrick v Carrick, 1.0
Carrick v Carrick, 1.0
Carrick v Carrick, 1.0

Umbro Cup
1st City Ground, Nottingham, 1.0
Chelsea v Nottingham Forest
(at City Ground, Nottingham, 3.30)

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Carrick v Carrick, 1.0
Carrick v Carrick, 1.0

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League
Sheffield Eagles v Wigan
(at Bramall Lane, 6.30)

OTHER SPORT
BOWLS: Women's world outdoor championship (Leamington Spa), County Championship (Leamington Spa), County Championship (Leamington Spa), County Championship (Leamington Spa)

CYCLING: St Neo 110 miles, Alconbury, 6.0

GOLF: English Amateur Championship (at Holwell Hall, 1.0) & Scottish Amateur Championship (Dunbar)

MOTOR RALLYING: Motos/Top Gear RAC British Championship (Ulster international rally, Belfast)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Bradford v Scottish Monarchs (7.30), Cradley Heath v Sheffield Hallam (8.00), Challenge: Swindon v Oxford (7.30), Conference League: Eastbourne v Ryde (7.30)

Tomorrow CRICKET

AXA Equity & Law League
2.0, 40 overs
DERBY: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire

LORDS: Middlesex v Essex
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan

TAUNTON: Somerset v Hampshire
EASTBOURNE: Sussex v Yorkshire
2.0, 40 overs

CANTERBURY: Kent v Worcestershire

Tetley Challenge Series
11.0, second day of three
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Pakistan

Tour match
11.0, final day of four
THE OVAL: Surrey v South Africa A

FIRST UNDER-19 INTERNATIONAL MATCH (final day of four) Old Trafford: England v New Zealand

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
Stones Super League

Hullik Blue Sox v Puma Saint-Germain
Leeds v Bradford Bulls
London Broncos v Warrington
Warrington v Oldham Bulls (6.0)

Final division
Dorset v Oxfordshire
Huddersfield G v Featherstone (6.30)
Kingsley Cougars v Wakefield (3.30)
Rochdale v Hull
Widnes v Batley Bulldogs

Second division
Crusade v Swinton Lions
Dorchester Dragons v Hunslet Hawks
Leigh Centurions v Chorley Magpies
Preston Panthers v Bramley
South Wales v York
(at Cardiff Arms Park, 6.0)

Umbro Cup
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF (at City Ground, Nottingham, 1.0)
FINAL (at City Ground, Nottingham, 3.30)

PRE-SEASON MATCHES: Athlone v Tramore (8.30), Dundalk v Liverpool (8.30)
Finn Harps v Dagenham (8.30), Galway v Siontdorcas (8.30), Pottoborough v Leicester (8.30)

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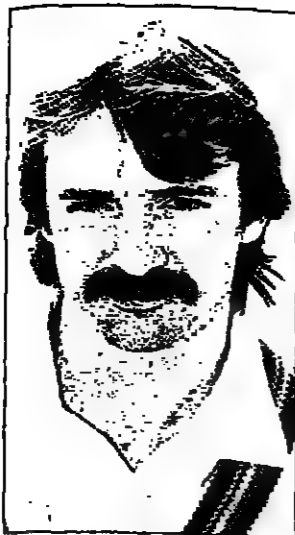
THE PREMIER, PREMIER LEAGUE

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CHANGING TIMES

App 11.50

Russell may fall foul of England's balancing act



Russell: world class

ENGLAND'S first defeat of the international summer was not so much a shock as a sobering reacquaintance with the facts. New, modern management has improved the approach of the team but the quality remains shallow when set against the best in the world.

Three Tests against Pakistan will leave the public wanting more, such is the attraction of the opposition, but unless England concoct an equalising win at Headingley next week, they may not fully share the enthusiasm. They were outplayed at Lord's and the need to strike back quickly in this short series will lead, almost inevitably, to a restructuring of the side when the selectors meet this evening.

Among the options to come under discussion will be six specialist batsmen and an all-rounder attack on what England hope will be an old-fashioned Leeds pitch. But nobody

will await the announcement tomorrow with more trepidation than Jack Russell, yet again the potential sufferer for the deficiencies of others.

It is the wish of certain selectors, including the chairman, Raymond Illingworth, to have the best of both worlds, with six batsmen and five bowlers. The only solution, it will be said, is that one of the batsmen, obviously Alec Stewart, must keep wicket.

The frequency with which this theory is propounded, and its intimate relationship with the particular problems of Headingley, is staggering. Stewart has kept wicket in three of the past four Leeds Tests, including the heavy defeat by West Indies last June, when Illingworth, in overall charge for the first time, pursued the same theory that will head tonight's agenda.

As ever, the crux of the problem is

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, on the dilemma facing the selectors before the Headingley Test

the absence of a genuine batting all-rounder, one capable of regular, substantial scores at No 6. Mark Ealham comes close, but not close enough when the bowling is of the inspirational Pakistani kind that can sweep away wickets like autumn leaves, and he may miss out here. Ronnie Irani, Craig White and Chris Lewis have all been tried but none bat well enough to justify a top six position against Waqar, Wasim and Muttiah.

So the likelihood is that Russell, one of the few world-class players at England's disposal, will be sacrificed again, giving a recall to John Crawley, in place of the discredited Graeme Hick, in a batting order that should be reinforced by

the return from injury of Nasser Hussain at No 3.

It is easy to see the logic of the wicketkeeping argument on this occasion, although there is an alternative structure of at least equal merit. If conditions at Headingley match up to England's ideal, there is likely to be little or no work for a spin bowler. My preference, therefore, would be to retain Russell in the team at No 7, followed by four seam bowlers.

Illingworth went to Headingley on Wednesday, when doubtless he had a word in the groundsman's ear to the effect that his mower should stay in its hut for the time being. Michael Atherton, the captain, certainly believes England's best

chance of beating Pakistan lies with a pitch conducive to seam and one can imagine his fury if he arrives next week to find, as Gooch did when captain there in 1993, something far more suitable to the opposition.

That possibility must be covered with the inclusion of a spinner in the party and Ian Salisbury bowled well enough at Lord's, with little luck, to be guaranteed that place. Lewis is proving his recovery from groin trouble in Surrey's match against South Africa A and will surely return, not least for his value in extending the batting, but there is also a crying need for another bowler of penetration after a Test in which England's bowling looked depressingly blunt.

This item on the selectors' agenda will revolve around two men, Darren Gough and Andy Caddick, and unless the selectors harshly

CRICKET

Yorkshire look to bowlers to finish job

By SIMON WILDE

EASTBOURNE (second day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 219 runs to beat Yorkshire

AS THEIR controversial request for a sporting pitch at Scarborough last week indicated, Yorkshire can afford a stalemate at this critical stage of their pursuit of a first championship title for 28 years. They will have no worries on that score about the surface on offer for their visit to the Safrons: it is sporting enough to ensure a result, and also to escape censure in the umpires' report, after an eventful day on which 18 wickets fell for 360 runs.

Yorkshire are better placed by virtue of not having to bat last but they probably had the worst of things yesterday. They dismissed Sussex for 253 by mid-afternoon — Peter Hartley following up his best performance with the bat with his best with the ball, six for 67 — to take what appears to be a decisive first-innings lead of 92 but they struggled so badly themselves that they were all out for 133 in their second innings.

Athey and Hall, the Sussex openers, survived four overs, not without alarms, in the evening.

Only David Byas, the captain, scored more than ten for Yorkshire yesterday, his composed, unbeaten 72 from 125 balls being a fine piece of craftsmanship. Ed Giddins, who later this month faces a charge of using a prohibited drug, was Sussex's leading bowler with figures of six for 47, the best of his career.

Sussex's hopes of reaching their fourth-innings target may be slim after seeing 16 wickets fall in the last two sessions. Batting had never been simple previously, with those batsmen who prospered being the ones who had looked to play their shots, but the pitch appeared to grow livelier as the day went on.

The ball not only swung and seemed around but bounced encouragingly; perhaps both sets of bowlers finally realised

what riches were on offer if they put their backs into it. Whatever the bowlers deserved, there was certainly a collective lack of application among the batsmen.

As this is a battle being fought out among two strong hands of seam bowlers, it was revealing that Gough, whose name will certainly come up when the England selectors meet this evening, was among the least successful or impressive.

He was struck for four fours by Law, whose 39 from 32 balls was one of the most assured innings after lunch, but it was Gough's dismissal of Speight, who was caught at second slip from a ball of extra bounce, that began the to-rings and fro-rings and put most of the fielders on close-catching duty for the remainder of the day.

Athey, who had added 61 to his overnight during 13 by lunch, had just reached an excellent century — his fifth against his native county — from 183 balls when he was leg-before to Hartley to begin a collapse in which Sussex's last five wickets fell in just 13 balls. Athey, who scored the first century of his first-class career — for Yorkshire — in this fixture 20 years ago, gave only one chance, on 58.

Although Giddins caused Yorkshire the most inconvenience, it was Lewry and Drakes who claimed the three wickets they lost for 36 before tea. And key wickets they were, too: those of Vaughan, Moxon and Bevan. Lewry accounted for Moxon with a fine inswinger and Drakes dispatched Vaughan, with a terrific ball that took his glove, and Bevan, to a superb "trimmer" that sent his off ball three-quarters of the way to the boundary.

After that, Yorkshire — all but their noble captain — were on the run, although White was unlucky, the ball spinning cruelly back into his stumps. Should Yorkshire win, it will be their seventh championship victory in 12 matches this season and may leave them sitting at the top of the table.

Kent make progress in race against time

By JACK BAILEY

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Kent, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 246 runs behind Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE batted until 2.40pm yesterday and amassed a large enough total to make the equation of time versus runs of vital importance. If Kent's bid for the championship is to be sustained, the tempo was hectic as Kent set off on the long chase left by a Worcestershire first innings of 450.

First, David Fulton cut loose against the new ball with 28 startling runs off 20 balls before falling to Lampitt's first ball. His partner, Matthew Walker, opening the innings in his first championship match of the season, took up the cudgels, racing to 50 from 63 balls before driving Moody to backward point.

Then came Ward with 41 and, finally, Hooper, who moved sweetly past 50 from 61 balls, including two driven

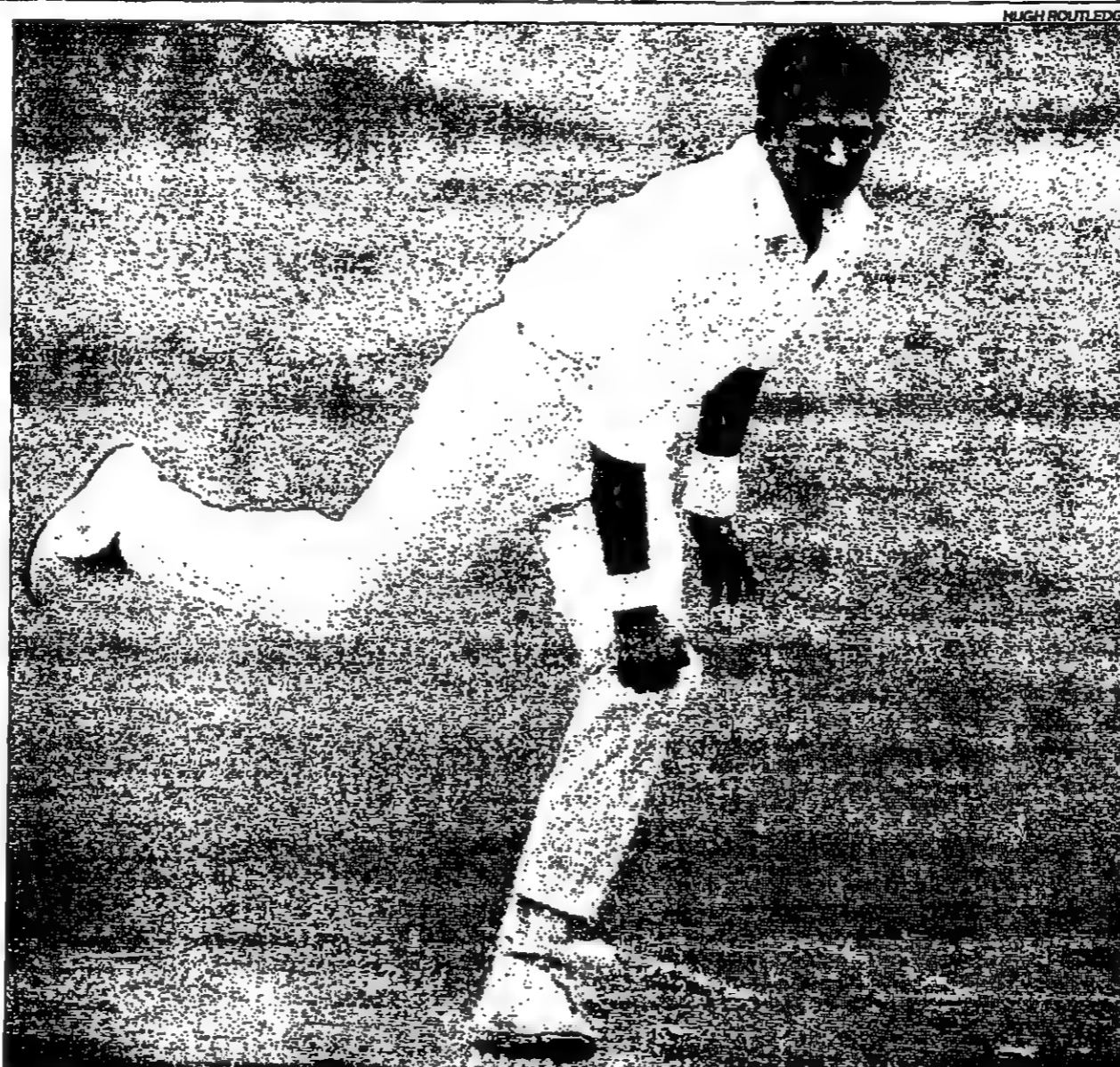
All-round excellence from Cork

DOMINIC CORK dominated the second day of Derbyshire's match against Gloucestershire yesterday with a display of all-round excellence which England will be hoping he can reproduce at Headingley next week (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

First he batted with rare authority to score 71 from 98 balls in a fifth-wicket stand of 110 with Dean Jones before he was run out. Although the last five wickets then fell for 42, Cork quickly ensured that his side's lead of 118 would serve as a basis for victory.

He sent the Gloucestershire second innings into steep decline with a post-tea spell which brought him the wickets of Windward, Lynch and Symonds. Gloucestershire, at 156 for six, are only 38 ahead.

Cork having so far taken 4-55. Steve James led a sound Glamorgan response to Nottinghamshire's total of 371 at Worktop. He became the first Glamorgan player to reach 1,000 runs during an unbeaten 130.



The spring was clearly back in Andy Caddick's step at Taunton yesterday as he reinforced his claims to a place in the England squad for the second Test match at Headingley by taking five wickets for 46 runs against Hampshire

Curran proving stubborn England fail to press home advantage

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 121 runs behind Leicestershire

POSITIVE cricket these past few weeks, coupled with some fortune, has taken Leicestershire to the top of the championship table. For once, yesterday, their game was not recognisable. After removing four Northamptonshire batsmen relatively cheaply and, indeed, thinking in terms of enforcing the follow-on, they were stymied by the highest partnership of the match between Kevin Curran and Tony Penberthy.

A catch and a stumping were missed as Curran made his first century of the season and Penberthy his highest score for two years, their unbeaten partnership realising 187 runs and lasting for 57 overs. Neither did Leicestershire bowl especially well.

For a good part of the day, it

was a question of whether Northamptonshire would make 273 to avoid following on. The ball was starting to turn and Leicestershire had included two spinners in Pierson and Brimston. In a sense, these two epitomised their county, for they are not cricketers of the front rank. But they are determined to succeed. Nigel Briers, who has now retired, has left quite a legacy in that respect.

Like Wells, who added only two runs to his overnight score of 202, Brimston began his career with Kent. Having done much to enable Leicestershire to go joint top of the championship table earlier this week, he took a wicket only time that Leicestershire won the championship was when the chairman of selectors was their captain. If he saw little yesterday that would have impressed him in terms of seeking England players, at least he would have been buoyed by the developments that have gone on since his time at Grace Road.

It was not, though, his batting which Raymond Illingworth came to view. Alas for Mulhally, he failed to take a wicket. The last, indeed, the only time that Leicestershire won the championship was when the chairman of selectors was their captain. If he saw little yesterday that would have impressed him in terms of seeking England players, at least he would have been buoyed by the developments that have gone on since his time at Grace Road.

Simmons, too, had some

success. He is not reluctant to give himself a bowl and removed both Walton, who made a sound half-century, and Capel, who edged to first slip.

In the morning, Leicestershire had added a further 58 runs. Wells batted in all for 404 minutes, the highest innings of his career coming to an end when he spooned a catch to mid-on off one from Capel that stopped on him.

Mullally then struck Ambrose for four consecutive fours. It was not, though, his batting which Raymond Illingworth came to view. Alas for Mulhally, he failed to take a wicket. The last, indeed, the only time that Leicestershire won the championship was when the chairman of selectors was their captain. If he saw little yesterday that would have impressed him in terms of seeking England players, at least he would have been buoyed by the developments that have gone on since his time at Grace Road.

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IN SPITE of this Old Trafford pitch, which has perturbed the officials of both teams through its propensity to turn extravagantly, this has been an intriguing and fluctuating contest, with a comparatively comfortable series against South Africa last summer, this series will examine the hosts' credentials more closely.

With the England Under-19 attack whittling their way through the powerful New Zealand top four, a first-innings lead appeared a formality. But, as the sun began to break through, the touring team's middle-order, in the shape of two tall, elegant, left-handers, Jacob Oram and Joseph Yovich, fought back defiantly with a stand of 104 to redress the balance.

After a steady start, Oram and Yovich set about the bowling with some aplomb, both driving powerfully to attain half-centuries. Oram reached fifty from 120 balls, with five fours and a six, while Yovich's half-century contained four fours and two sixes, coming from 91 balls.

Twice David Nash, the diminutive England wicket-keeper, was struck in the face, indicating the devilry in the pitch. After the first incident, for a short time Nash donned a helmet. Alas, he was helmetless when a ball from Dean Cosker spun out of the rough, hitting him square on the left eye.

A lack of consistency among the New Zealand bowlers allowed England to post a respectable total of 263. Having resumed yesterday morning at 203 for six, the home team slumped to 226 for nine, before a spirited tenth-wicket partnership between James Ormond and Colin Campbell hauled them beyond the 250 mark.

SOORE: England under-19 263 (P J Selles 68, B C Hollister 55; New Zealand under-19 226 for 7 (J D Oram 58, J A Yovich 53 not out).

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

DERBY (second day of four): Gloucestershire were with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 279 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Derbyshire

GLoucestershire: First innings 217 (M G N Windward 76, P A J DeFreitas 5 for 72)

Second innings

N J Turner b Mulcahy 2

M G N Windward c Mulcahy b Cork 25

P A J DeFreitas b Cork 49

J A DeFreitas b Cork 24

A Symonds c Jones b Cork 5

R P Dover c Collins b Cork 5

L Jones not out

Extras (b 5, lb 2, nb 4) 11

Total (2 wickets, 72 overs) 251

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-150, 2-214

BOWLING: Evans 17-4-45-0, Mole 16-5-65-1

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 3

Umpires: B Dudson and J Lyons

Score at 120 overs 494-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-30, 3-66, 4-116

5-164, 6-219, 7-248, 8-249, 9-251

BOWLING: Mulcahy 10-4-16-1, DeFreitas 18-2-65-1, Cork 21-6-45-4, Dean 6-3-34-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 2

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Score at 120 overs 370-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-36, 3-105, 4-266

5-278, 6-281, 7-443, 8-459, 9-459

BOWLING: Mulcahy 27-5-104-1, Smith 7-0-23-0, Athey 18-6-60-1, Lewis 21-1-47-4

Symonds 24-5-61-1, Penberthy 14-3-25-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 2

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Score at 120 overs 410-8

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Score at 120 overs 410-8

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire

DERBY (second day of four): Gloucestershire were with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 279 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Derbyshire

GLoucestershire: First innings 217 (M G N Windward 76, P A J DeFreitas 5 for 72)

Second innings

N J Turner b Mulcahy 2

M G N Windward c Mulcahy b Cork 25

P A J DeFreitas b Cork 49

J A DeFreitas b Cork 24

A Symonds c Jones b Cork 5

R P Dover c Collins b Cork 5

L Jones not out

Extras (b 5, lb 2, nb 4) 11

Total (2 wickets, 72 overs) 251

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-150, 2-214

BOWLING: Evans 17-4-45-0, Mole 16-5-65-1

Bonus points: Nottinghamshire 3

Umpires: B Dudson and J Lyons

Score at 120 overs 494-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-30, 3-66, 4-116

5-164, 6-219, 7-248, 8-249, 9-251

BOWLING: Mulcahy 10-4-16-1, DeFreitas 18-2-65-1, Cork 21-6-45-4, Dean 6-3-34-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 2

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Score at 120 overs 370-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-36, 3-105, 4-266

5-278, 6-281, 7-443, 8-459, 9-459

BOWLING: Mulcahy 27-5-104-1, Smith 7-0-23-0

Athey 18-6-60-1, Lewis 21-1-47-4

Symonds 24-5-61-1, Penberthy 14-3-25-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 2

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Score at 120 overs 410-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-36, 3-105, 4-266

5-278, 6-281, 7-443, 8-459, 9-459

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Symonds 24-5-61-1, Penberthy 14-3-25-0

Bonus points: Derbyshire 2

Umpires: J H Harris and G Sharp

Score at 120 overs 410-8

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-



RACING 40, 41

Hills redresses the balance at Glorious Goodwood

SPORT

SATURDAY AUGUST 3 1996

MOTOR SPORT 42

McRae's driving ambition thrown off course again



Atlanta stunned by American's superhuman performance in 200 metres

Johnson has the world at his feet

Calamity in relay leaves Christie out in cold

FROM JOHN GOODBODY

THE Olympic career of Linford Christie ended yesterday with Great Britain's greatest ever sprinter once again failing to start a race. This time it was not a disqualification that ended Christie's hopes of concluding his career with another medal. Instead, he was rested for the first-round heat of the 4x100 metres relay. In his absence, the squad dropped the baton and failed to finish. The mix-up occurred at the changeover on the second to third legs between Darren Braithwaite and Darren Campbell. 23, from Manchester, the latter said: "Linford has never been to a championship and not won a medal and we were really going out there to do something for him. Now I have got to face him."

Tony Jarrett, the 110 metres hurdler, who ran the first leg, said: "It would have been nice to have got something for Linford. But accidents do happen in relays. This sums up the whole Games for us." Braithwaite was involved in the previous incident of a dropped baton in a 4x100 metres relay in an important event when Britain failed to finish at the European championships in Helsinki in 1994. However, this can happen to even the most accomplished teams. The United States relay team was disqualified for a faulty changeover at the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

MONDAY

THE TIMES

ITF

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FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN ATLANTA

MICHAEL JOHNSON went to Planet Hollywood on Thursday night, but which planet had he come from? The world record which Johnson set in the 200 metres here was the most extraordinary Olympic performance since Bob Beamon skipped 28ft at the 1968 Mexico Games, taking the long jump mark straight from 27ft to 29. Arguably, it was more extraordinary because Beamon enjoyed the benefit of altitude. It was superhuman.

Yesterday, as Atlanta tried to concentrate on the penultimate day of competition on the track, nothing could deflect one's thinking from what had gone on the night before. Johnson had achieved the first Olympic 200/400 metres double by a man, but this historic achievement was lost in the disbelief that this Texan, who was on the verge of quitting



Johnson is jubilant after breaking the 200 metres world record and completing a unique double, having also won gold in the 400 metres. Photograph: Richard Pelham

Relay rumpus 1
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Simon Barnes 46

the sport through frustration in 1989, had run 19.32sec for 200 metres.

Johnson covered the first 100 metres in 10.12sec, on a curve. He ran the second 100 metres in 9.20sec, albeit with a rolling start. His two 100 metres runs average out at 9.66sec. When Donovan Bailey, from Canada, set a world record for the 100 metres here last Saturday, his time was 9.84sec.

Johnson cut the biggest slice off the world record since Eddie Tolan's 21.12sec at the Los Angeles Games of 1932. Both Johnson and Tolan, also from the United States, improved it by 0.34sec.

Tolan's record stood for 20 years. Johnson's will probably last beyond the lifetime of everybody who saw it. "I want to give people something to remember," he had said coming into the Games. He gave us more than we thought humanly possible. More than he thought possible. "I think I am capable of 19.5," was his prediction.

Until June, when Johnson ran 19.66sec in the US Olympic trials, the world record, held by Pietro Mennea, from Italy, had stood for 17 years. How long will it be before the combination of forces which brought Johnson to this pinnacle meet again? A fast track, a capacity home crowd of 83,000, a warm evening ideal for sprinting, favourable wind, and the incentive of the double to drive on a magnificent athlete at his peak.

Given that the track is to be pulled up after the Paralympics which follow these Games, and Johnson is unlikely to be inspired to this degree again, it is hard to imagine even the great man himself going quicker. Johnson, after two frustrating Olympic campaigns, won here by the biggest margin since Jesse Owens in 1936. Yet Frankie Fredericks, in second place, recorded 19.68sec, faster than Mennea's now seemingly

pedestrian world record. Of his second 100 metres, run at an average speed of 24.45 miles per hour, Johnson remarked: "It really blows me away." Certainly it blew the opposition away. Though leading by barely the length of one of his 3.5oz gold-laminated spikes coming off the bend, Johnson's acceleration was so sudden it was as though the other seven finalists had a conveyor belt beneath their feet, moving towards them.

Johnson thought, presumably by feel, for one could not see it, that he stumbled at the start. "I think that cost me a few hundredths of a second," he said. He was over it, he said, by the fourth step. What might he gain also if he dipped at the finish? He never does, that distinctive upright form constant to the end.

Photographs of his close finish with Fredericks in Oslo last month show him leaning only slightly forward when a

traditional dip might have saved his sequence of 21 races unbeaten at 200 metres. While Fredericks leaned, head and torso thrust forward, Johnson's body remained vertical, except for a bend of his neck throwing his head slightly forward.

The days are long gone since Johnson's posture was criticised. "The advantage of my style is that, being upright, I am more on top of myself and in control and that is what

helps me to be a good curve runner," he said.

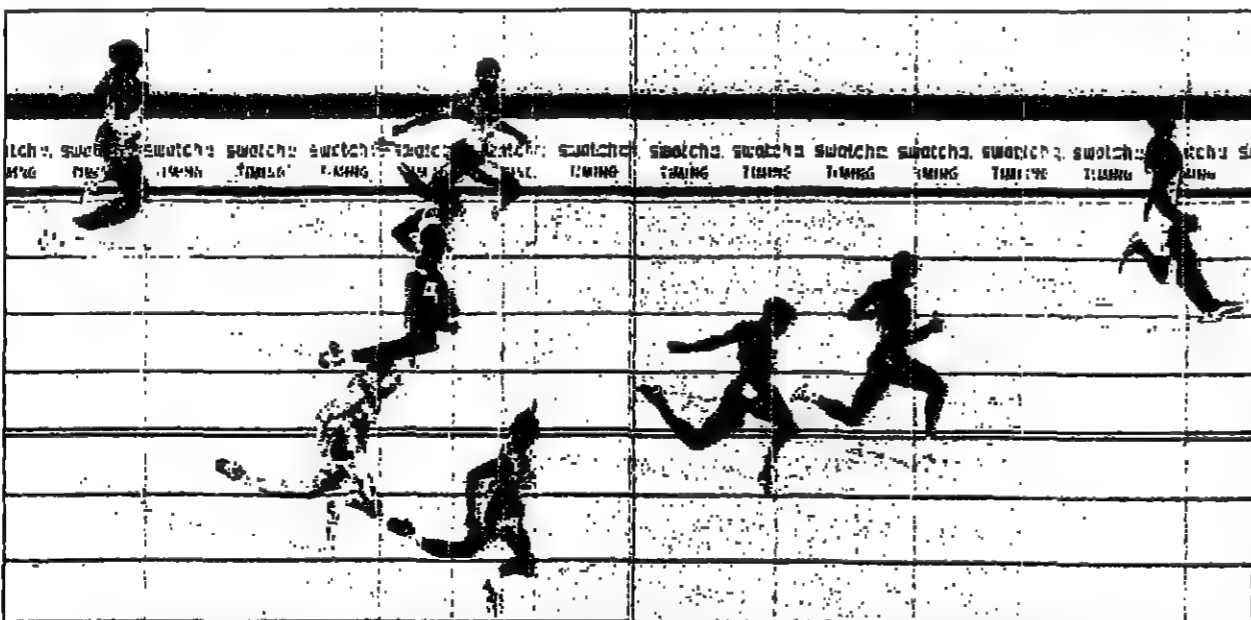
Clyde Hart, Johnson's coach, said that he has "the perfect form" and that, even under pressure from commentators years ago, he had never been tempted to change it. "We have had the greatest runners in history analysed on computer and Michael is the model," Hart said.

Before Johnson came along, the man nearest to achieving the Olympic 200/400 metres double was Eric Liddell, of Great Britain, who won the 400 metres gold and 200 metres bronze in Paris in 1924. Johnson's victory ended a sequence of three successive Olympic victories for Tom Tellez, the American coach, who had trained Carl Lewis (1984), Joe DeLoach (1988) and Mike Marsh (1992) to gold.

Johnson, who yesterday pulled out of the United States 4x400 metres relay team with a hamstring injury, did not make the 1988 Games. He was last in his heat of the 400 metres at the trials, and withdrew from the 200 metres after suffering a broken fibula. He was injured again in 1989 and, had he not had such an encouraging 1990, ranking No 1 in the world at 200 and 400 metres, he might not be in athletics now. "I probably would have used my degree [in marketing] and gone into business," he said. Misfortune

revisited him in 1992 when, expected to win the 200 metres, he fell sick with food poisoning in Barcelona.

After Johnson ran his 19.66sec, Hart was asked about the physiological testing his athlete had undergone. "The only thing I know," Hart replied, eager to get away from the celebrations, "is that when they took off his shirt, there was a big S on his chest." Must have been the Daily Planet he came from.



The photo-finish confirms Johnson's extraordinary margin of victory, ahead of Fredericks and Boldon

Administrators persuaded to invest in success

FROM DAVID MILLER

To improve Great Britain's performance at the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000, after a comparatively lame display in Atlanta, the British Olympic Association (BOA) intends to introduce a £10,000 subsistence grant for 300 competitors. This will assist in their training and preparation. Nothing less is needed if Britain, lying fifteenth yesterday in the table of overall number of medals won, is not to fall even further behind the international field.

"I have been trying to get a feel of what athletes need," Craig Reddie, the BOA chairman, said. "They don't want to become millionaires, just the chance to do the job properly, to be equally prepared with everyone else. That means full time support for at least two years before the Games."

This would require £3 million a year. That sum can now become available under the

Government's new directive, by which five per cent of lottery funding for sport, £300 million a year, can go towards training as opposed to providing facilities: building people, rather than building gymnasia. The repetitive evidence of Atlanta, of medals narrowly missed by British contenders, is that better preparation could have made the difference.

The BOA is to meet Virginia Bottomley and Iain Sproat, the ministers responsible for sport, after the BOA's own debriefing on returning home. "It's not a carpeting, as has been suggested, but a normal invitation from Government to discuss the future," Reddie said. That future includes, critically, the establishment and the function of John Major's proposed Academy for Sport. Funding for coaching and training is fundamental, and the Government must recognise this.

Belgium, lying 25th in the



medals table, has doubled its tally in four years, from three to six so far, having doubled its investment. It has its top 35 competitors on full time salaries, and rewards every finishing place from first down to sixth, with 25 per cent of the financial bonus going to the coach. "The relation between success and investment is linear," Dr Jacques Rogge, the Belgian member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said.

Australia, lying fifth in the medals table with its best ever tally of 36 to date, gives \$40,000 to every gold medal-winner. "It's compensation, not incentive," Phil Coates, an Australian IOC member, said. "You cannot beat an institutionalised training centre, whether it's publicly or privately financed (Australia has its academy in Canberra, the model which provoked Major's initiative). Improvement won't happen overnight. It's taken ten years."

Russia, fourth in the table, rewards its gold medal-winners with \$50,000; the United States, the runaway leaders, with \$40,000. Hungary, one place ahead of Britain, has a \$20,000 reward, 40 per cent of which goes to the individual coach, and its National Olympic Committee has all competitors on a monthly subsistence grant.

When considering Britain's apparent "failure" the financial structure of other teams

must be taken into account. The proper administration of the Government's academy becomes increasingly important. "It's up to us on the BOA to prove to those who will take the decision on the academy's creation, the new UK Sports Council, that we should run the sports side," Reddie said.

"We wouldn't build it, we don't want to run the kitchens and the laundry, but we know more about elite sport than anyone else. We can network the services, whether it's biomechanics, diet, physiotherapy, sports psychology, to all federations and competitors, to make them generally available, and avoid the wasteful exercise of different sports federations undertaking their own research."

After decades of confusion among Britain's multiple sports authorities, it is essential that the Government delegates to the BOA the responsibility for producing elite competitors.

Strug leaps into new category

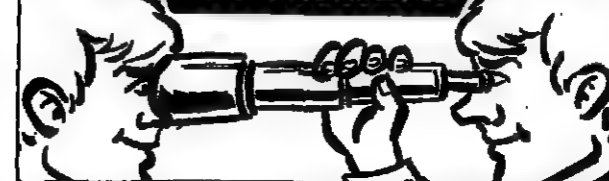
KERRI Strug, the United States gymnast whose gold medal-winning vault when injured set the Atlanta Games alight, has signed with a sports agent who will probably make her a millionaire.

Marketing experts said Strug, whose courage helped the US women's team win their first Olympic gold, could reap up to \$5 million (more than £3 million) from commercial endorsements.

Strug, 18, told USA Today newspaper that she had signed with agent Leigh Steinberg, whose other clients have included skater Brian Boitano and the 1994 US World Cup football team.

"I feel good about the decision. It's a big change in my life," Strug said. "I remember the impact Mary Lou Retton had on me. It's a dream come true."

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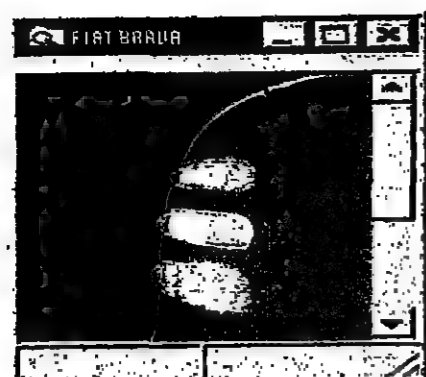
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Indonesian riots test ambiguous army role

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

THE military's fierce response to pro-democracy unrest in Indonesia this week has intensified calls for curbing the armed forces' dominant role in politics.

Indonesia is neither democratic nor totally dictatorial: the army draws civilians into the system and pursues what it calls the middle way. The press is free up to a point, but faces withdrawal of publishing licences if it crosses an ill-defined line. There are curbs on public assemblies. Only three political parties are permitted to contest elections. Millions of new, young voters find such curbs intolerable.

The military, for all its roughshod treatment of pro-democracy demonstrators, enjoys immense respect. Almost every political party regards it as the only force capable of controlling the potential for disintegration of a country with more differences than similarities that have yielded civil wars and rebellions.

The army has had ample opportunity to seize absolute power, especially after putting down the abortive communist coup in 1965, when it emerged as the hero of the nation. It immediately filled the power vacuum and became the country's dominant political force, but without imposing military rule. The armed forces' role, unique in the world, is defined, and enshrined by law, as *dwi fungsi*, "dual function" — a social-political role as well as a defensive one. It has given Indonesia unprecedented stability for 30 years.

The former Dutch colony had no institutionalised political structures at independence, after four years of Japanese occupation, half a century ago. The army, which grew out of bands of young fighters, moved into the void. Megawati Sukarnoputri, who heads the pro-democracy movement, believes the armed forces must continue to play a central role in politics. "They came from the grassroots,"

They are part of the soul of the country — they will always have an important function and it is right that they should," she said this week.

Kusnanto Anggoro, a researcher for the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, agrees. "People have nothing against the army. The democracy movement is not aimed at them, although there is a feeling that the army should have a lesser role. People are not really asking for more democracy. What they want is a government that is more accountable, less corrupt and less bureaucratic."

President Suharto shows signs of distancing himself from the new generation of military leaders. "He feels some high-ranking officers do not support him," Mr Anggoro said. "The number of seats in the House of Representatives reserved for the military will be reduced from 100 to 75 at the general election next year."

Ten of his Cabinet ministers are acting or retired army officers, and his Vice-President is a former head of the armed forces. The military is involved in a huge range of business interests, profits from which finance many of its functions, as well as provide opportunities for high-ranking corruption. There is open contempt within the army for civilian liberal democracy, which was tried with disastrous results in the 1950s, and most civilian politicians agree that Western-style democracy would not work.

The real impact of this week's pro-democracy riots is to focus debate on how far, if at all, the military should retreat from the centre of power, personified by the almost one-man rule of General Suharto. The past week's trouble was a reminder of what tens of millions of young voters think of their corrupt, privileged and unaccountable rulers.

Interrogation go-ahead

PRESIDENT SUHARTO has authorised the interrogation of the woman leader of Indonesia's pro-democracy movement after last weekend's riots. The move demonstrates his determination to fight calls for more open government (Christopher Thomas writes). Last night, Megawati Sukarnoputri said she had not yet received a summons but

was ready to answer any questions. The Attorney-General's Office has been seeking official permission to question her about her role in the run-up to the riots.

Muchtar Pakpahan, a dissident union leader, was charged yesterday with subversion over the riots, which carries a possible death penalty.



Flashing lights and silver balls lure Japan's pinball players to spend £193 billion a year

Japan's pinball wizardry becomes fatal addiction

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

A FOUR-year-old boy wandered out of the amusement arcade where his mother was playing pinball — known to the Japanese as *pachinko* — tumbled into an irrigation ditch and drowned. Outside another *pachinko* parlour, two brothers, a two-year-old and a one-year-old, suffocated in a car left by their mother while she went in for a "quick game".

The incidents typify the "pachinko deaths" of children forgotten by pinball-obsessed mothers reported by the Japanese press in recent weeks. In little more than a year, about 30 child fatalities have been attributed to accidents while parents were enjoying a flutter. The tragedies have prompted newspaper editorials and sociologists to lament that *pachinko* is no longer harmless fun, but becoming an addiction for increasing numbers of players.

One in four Japanese — 30 million — plays regularly, and about a third are women. Even the smallest town has a *pachinko* parlour. Across the country there are 4.7 million machines, one for every 26 Japanese. Beneath garish

neon, customers sit shoulder to shoulder before rows of vertical pinball machines, hypnotised by streams of spinning silver balls, flashing red lights and clanging bells. Students of the culture have said that the Japanese enjoy the anonymity, and find fulfilment in surroundings that look to many foreigners like a vision of hell.

"You have to remember that this game, which I personally think is horrible, is not confined to dimwits and the unemployed," says Hideaki Kase, an author and political commentator.

Pachinko is big business, shovelling in revenues estimated by the Government at \$300 billion (£193 billion) a year — 25 per cent of all revenues in the service sector. The Government does not classify *pachinko* as gambling like horse, bicycle and motorboat racing, and officially the only prizes are items such as biscuits, wrist watches or toiletries.

But around every corner is a little place that exchanges the prizes for cash — an illegal practice to which the police close their eyes. It is no

coincidence that senior police officers assume jobs in the *pachinko* industry after retirement.

The corrupting force of *pachinko* has been apparent for years. Tax evasion is rampant, gangsters skim off some of the profits, and more recently the scandal of forging pre-paid *pachinko* cards has made headlines. But now some commentators fear that the ill effects are seeping into society at large. The rate of young people playing has grown, and more Japanese are becoming hooked.

In the past 15 months, there have been more than 200 reported cases of *pachinko*-related crimes, such as stealing to support a *pachinko* addiction. But most disturbing are the "pachinko deaths" which Takeshi Sato, a social psychology professor, blames on the irresponsibility of young parents and the unstoppable rise in the addiction to this form of gambling.

This week, *pachinko* associations summoned members to discuss the issue. Fearing imposed regulation, the operators promised to put their house in order.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THEIR FUTURE

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The FBI agent, whose wife (above) was a hostess on TWA 800, is on the case News Review



OASIS OR OASIS'N'T?
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France's favourite mercenary, out of Africa and out of prison, comes up trumps

Dog of war has his day

FRANCE'S most notorious "soldier of fortune" bade a farewell to arms this week after emerging from a Paris prison to the sort of fanfare usually reserved for returning Olympians or elderly heroes of the Resistance.

France has always had an ambivalent attitude towards "Colonel" Bob Denard, the last of a breed of war-dogs whose exploits have inspired countless novels and films as well as an enduring personal mythology.

M. Denard and his band of mercenaries, *Les Affreux* (The Terrors), have played a dubious part in dozens of African conflicts since the 1960s, most recently the attempt to mount a coup in the Comoros Islands last October, but this has been done with such panache that France has nonetheless adopted M. Denard as a beloved national anti-hero.

"I have come back to square one,"

PARIS FILE
by BEN
MACINTYRE



ing that his activities were always carried out with the covert blessing of the French authorities, the CIA or MI6, coupled with the suggestion that he has, in some obscure way, upheld the martial honour of France throughout his career. The failed Comoros coup, which he insists was the fulfilment of a "debt of honour", was no exception. "Once upon a time they would have given me a medal for such an operation. Now they throw me in a hole. Perhaps it's a way of honouring me," he said.

The self-styled "Pirate for France" is still under legal investigation for the 1989 murder of the former Comoros President, Ahmed Abdallah, when the mercenary was leader of the presidential guard. "He was my friend. I am perhaps responsible because I was charged with protecting him, but I'm certainly not guilty," he maintains.

he announced on leaving La Santé, the Paris jail where he has spent the past nine months in the company of some of France's top industrialists. "I don't have the energy, physically or psychologically, to go back to war. It's over. I will soon be 68. I am an old man," he declared. He has plenty of energy left for self-publicity, however, and the French press clustered adoringly, noting "the blue of his eyes has lost none of its vigour". *Paris-Match* awarded him the full five-star celebrity treatment.

M. Denard's ability to escape punishment, just as he survived so many African battlefields unscathed, rests on a talent for imply-

Next week a Paris court will decide whether to press charges, a ruling M. Denard awaits with a "serenity" that is probably justified. Since leaving La Santé, the irrepressible M. Denard has traded his battle dress for the mantle of gossip columnist, regaling anyone who will listen with stories of his illustrious fellow inmates in France's most exclusive prison.

He described how he learnt to paint with a disgraced businessman ("I'm better at painting with a pistol") and played football with Jacques Crozemarie, the jailed head



Bob Denard: "I don't have the energy to go back to war"

of France's largest cancer charity. Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, the former chairman of the French rail network imprisoned on suspicion of corruption, taught him to play bridge.

In the evening, M. Denard recalled, a voice could be heard shouting from the basement cells: "It's Carlos here, Carlos is wishing

you good night." It was Elch Ramirez Sánchez, alias Carlos the Jackal, the accused international terrorist.

"No one ever answered him," sniffed M. Denard, bridge partner to captains of industry. Dogs of war have standards. They don't mix with Jackals.

I think, therefore I need therapy

VOLTAIRE wrote that philosophy would extinguish the "flames of superstition". But can it also soothe the troubled minds of Parisians fraught with 20th-century angst?

Carole Tresson, a young French philosopher, believes it can, and has just opened a "philosophy clinic", where the words of the great thinkers are being administered in varying doses to those racked by the meaning of life, or lack of it.

Psychology helps to answer the question "Why have I become what I am?" but philosophy, or rather *philosophie*, tackles the yet more fundamental issue of "Why am I here?", Mme Tresson insists.

Her first patient went to Mme Tresson because, since retirement, he had lost all interest in life. He was not mentally ill, but rather assailed by doubts and cosmic uncertainties.

The philosopher placed him on a strict regimen of Aristotle and Plato and he has now completely recovered — so much so that he has enrolled himself in a course of philosophy at the Sorbonne.

Algerian militants murder bishop

BY BEN MACINTYRE
AND MARK HUBAND

AN OUTSPOKEN French bishop was killed by a terrorist bomb at his home in Algeria on Thursday night, only hours after he welcomed the French Foreign Minister on a visit intended to improve relations between France and its former colony.

Mgr Pierre Claverie, 58, the Bishop of Oran, was murdered by suspected Muslim extremists when he returned from meeting Hervé de Charette. The Bishop's driver was also killed.

The French Government insisted yesterday that its determination to establish a closer relationship with Algeria would not be "blown off course" by terrorists trying to scupper French political and financial support for the military-dominated Government in Algiers. But the assassination is a serious blow.

Mgr Claverie was the forthright French citizen and the most senior clergyman to die in Algeria's violence, and his murder has prompted new fears that Islamic militants may renew last year's bombing campaign on French soil.

Earlier, M. de Charette was accompanied by Mgr Claverie as he laid a wreath at the graves of seven Trappist monks kidnapped and then murdered earlier this year by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the factions fighting to oust the Algerian Government.

The GIA has cited French financial support for the Algerian Government as justification for killing French nationals. Its leader, Djamel Zitouni, who is believed to have ordered the monks' murder, was killed in an ambush last week.

Born in Algeria, the bishop strongly supported the Algerian struggle for independence. "The Church in Algeria is Algerian, not French. Our blood is mixed. We have chosen to share the fate of the Algerian people, for better or worse," he said after the murder of the monks in May.

Hair looms at the Opera

THE Paris Opera museum has just opened one of the stranger exhibitions of modern times which includes the beard of Saint-Saëns, who wrote *Samson and Delilah*, and a lock of Berlioz's hair shaped into a question mark.

The hirsute heritage of great French composers is part of a vast collection of artefacts gathered by music buffs in honour of their idols. These include Chopin's handker-

chiefs, costumes of celebrated Victorian divas, Gounod's pipe, the spectacles worn by Massenet and a revolver that belonged to Beethoven. Saint-Saëns's beard, we are told, was clipped off on his deathbed by Gabriel, his valet, who left it to the Opera. His exhibition may not add a great deal to the art of opera, but proves that music fans of the last century were just as obsessive as those of the present.

Weary Yeltsin advised to take two months off

FROM RICHARD BRESTON
IN MOSCOW

FURTHER doubts were cast on President Yeltsin's fitness to rule Russia for a second term when one of his closest aides suggested yesterday that the Kremlin leader needed two months off work to regain his strength.

Georgi Satarov, a senior Kremlin aide and one of the architects of the Russian leader's re-election victory last month, admitted that Mr Yeltsin was suffering "colossal fatigue" as a result of intensive campaigning.

"Intellectually he is, of course, in very strong form. But physically ... he needs probably about two months to recover from overwork," Mr Satarov said in a lengthy interview in *Sogodnya*.

"He needs some rest. He needs to regain his strength," he said. "He is, after all, an old man. There is nothing you can do about that," he said.

This was one of the first times that a senior Kremlin figure has stated that something might be wrong with the Russian leader since he virtually disappeared from public view on the eve of his re-

election on July 3. Mr Satarov added to speculation about the seriousness of the situation when he discussed the thorny question of succession. He said the three leading contenders were Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, General Aleksandr Lebed, the secretary of the Security Council, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow.

While Mr Yeltsin is regularly shown on television in short, edited items, he has become a virtual recluse at his country residence of Barvikha outside Moscow. Rumours circulating in the capital have

suggested that his absence was caused by everything from drinking bouts to renewed heart problems, which led to two seizures last year.

Vyacheslav Nikonov, another Kremlin confidant, said that at this point it did not matter whether the Russian leader was seen in public or not. "Of course, he will appear on August 9 for his inauguration ceremony, but apart from that his work is done for the time being," he said. "He won the election and established the foundations of a stable Government. He has earned his rest, and like millions of

Russians is taking a well-deserved holiday."

However, Russia is facing several crises which require strong leadership. A miners' strike over back pay, which began in the Far East last month, is spreading rapidly and could lead to a national strike next week. In Chechnya, peace efforts have all but broken down, with several Russian soldiers being killed every day. The Government's ability to act has been hampered by the power struggle between Mr Chernomyrdin and General Lebed over who will set policy priorities.



President Yeltsin, left, is visited in hospital by Viktor Chernomyrdin after he had a heart seizure last year

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OPINION

Just what you've been waiting for: the indispensable guide to the crazy world of the Edinburgh Fringe



THEATRE

English Touring Company delivers a classy and revelatory new staging of Ibsen's Hedda Gabler

THE TIMES ARTS

FROM

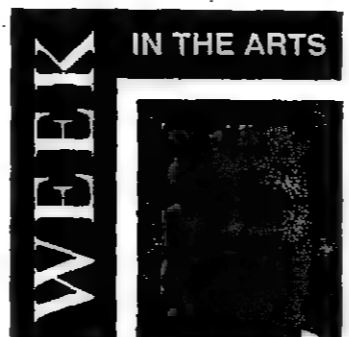
Rozhdensvsky goes straight for the heart in a wide-ranging programme with the BBC Symphony



BLUES

America's hot young guitarist, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, shows why he is really going places

Wee guide to the best of the worst



RICHARD MORRISON

Thinking about making the journey north next weekend for the world's greatest cultural binge? No, not the annual pointy-eared competition of the Carlisle Star Trek Appreciation Society, you satirical bunch. I mean the Edinburgh Festival. Well, if you are — and especially if you aren't — this article is for you. Other journalists may promise "indispensable" festival guides to the best, the unmissable, the incredible. But only this column presents the really essential Edinburgh list: The Fringe Shows That You Almost Certainly Won't Want To See.

ers. Tell us if we are wrong. Or better still, don't. Life's too short. All of our Eminent Missables are bona fide entries, believe it or not, in this year's Edinburgh Fringe programme, from which all quotes are taken. My apologies to the performers concerned: I am sure your shows will turn out to be triumphs. It's just that they sound ghastly from the descriptions you give. Have you ever thought of employing a top professional writer like Jeffrey Archer to pen your pre-show publicity? Oh, I see — you did. Never mind, you can't win them all. Here are the Terrible Twelve:

● 1. The Sanity of Trees. This "multimedia installation" will examine "nature and humanity, and the nature of humanity" using the words of "Finland's leading poet". You don't have to be Finnish to enjoy it, but the consumption of a pint of vodka might help.

to the Fringe with a play in which the actors' unique movements create a borderless aesthetic form. Now that's something you don't often see in the West End.

Elektra-La-La (which "transports Sophocles to the world of the homeless and the Internet in present-day Los Angeles") will surely be a front-runner in the race to win the 1996 Jonathan Miller Award for Pointless Updating.

● 11. Am I Screaming Quietly? "Have you ever wondered what toys would say if they could talk?" No, I can't say I've ever wondered that. But I bet it's kinky, otherwise it wouldn't be at the Edinburgh Fringe. Why don't you tell us? The toys explore the apparently not-so-childhood of Jo and Lisa, but discover instead a tainted past.

of the Charles Manson family murders. And all done in the best possible taste, I'm sure. But as the Chicago Tribune warned ominously: "Not for the faint of heart or full of stomach."

Hard axe to follow

IT'S a long way from Shreveport, Louisiana, to London's Oxford Street. But Kenny Wayne Shepherd should be used to travelling now — both onwards and upwards. The young guitarist has just spent 20 weeks at the top of the Billboard blues charts with his impressive debut album, *Ledbetter Heights*.

His influences are apparent and, to his credit, he makes no attempt to hide them. Stevie Ray Vaughan is obviously his main man. But there was enough variety and inventiveness on display at the 100 Club to show he is an artist ready to build on, rather than ape, the heritage of the late Texas star.

Pencil thin, with a mane of blond hair, Shepherd looks even younger than his 19 years until he starts to play. Power

chords pile on power chords in an instrumental cascade as he pounds his guitar, head swaying and hair flying, backed by cast-iron support from his four-piece backing band.

He opened with the New Orleans-flavoured instrumental title track of his album, with its tricky second-line rhythms, and showed from the start that this was a band that played and, but only occasionally, sang.

Back in the dance band era, 78s would carry the words "With Vocal Refrain" — and refrain is just what singer Corey Sterling did for most of the first half of the show. The odd vocal chorus would be pitted against the skills of the young muster, but it was an unequal contest. Even when Sterling had a chance to shine on the Bukka White classic *Aberdeen*, the song changed a gear midway and we were soon heading for the heavy metal highway at full throttle.

By the end of the evening, you were wishing for a little of the restraint that Shepherd had shown earlier on. But that is only a minor criticism of a guitarist who still has the time and talent to scale even greater heights. Remember the name: it's one you will be hearing again and often.

JOHN CLARKE

THEATRE: Classy Ibsen revival confounds prejudices; Tom Jones on song

New ribbons on old hat

Until now the English Touring Company has had a reputation for taking decent, solid but not wildly exciting stuff to decent, solid but not wildly exciting towns: so I hope its top brass will forgive me for suspecting that the most memorable thing in Stephen Unwin's revival of *Hedda Gabler* was going to be Aunt Julia's hat.

As you may recall, this object materialises at the start of Ibsen's play. Boring old Julia leaves it on one of genteel Hedda's chairs, and Hedda maliciously pretends she thinks it is a second-hand bonnet dumped there by the maid. But here the slur is doubly provocative, for mile-high white feathers protrude from its base. Is this a grotesque parody of the headgear worn by Hermes in his winged messenger mode? Or is the hat actually about to take flight and kill a bird smaller than itself, such as an owl? Or are the feathers quill pens waiting for a poet staid enough to compose an epic with them?

But then the production gets going, halting facious rumination in its tracks. It is not just decent, not just solid, but decidedly classy. Thanks largely to Kenneth McLeish's simple, punchy translation and Unwin's adroit direction, the evening combines narrative clarity with pace. And thanks to the thoughtful skills of Alexandra Gilbreath's Hedda and the intelligence of those supporting her, I found myself looking at the play's key events in a new way.

Why does Hedda deliberately bait Lovberg, the would-be lover she years ago rejected,

Hedda Gabler Donmar

into going on an alcoholic spree? Why does she then pile destruction on destruction, burning the manuscript he has drunkenly mislaid and, as a last throw, giving him the pistol with which he kills himself? Most productions leave you with the feeling that ennu, impotence and contempt for the ordinary have combined to turn the potentially good in her to evil. Fiona Shaw, the most striking of recent Heddas, suggested all that and went on to imply that six months of honeymooning abroad with her unsuitable husband, Tesman, had finally pitched her into something akin to clinical madness.

But Crispin Lettis is one of the least wet and most assertive Tesmans I have seen. Neither a dull honeymoon nor long-term ennu wholly explains why Gilbreath, a pale, aloof Hedda with a sort of precious sob built into her voice, goes so far over the top. No, the reason is also that Jonathan Phillips's vivid, sear Lovberg is himself a bit of a sadist, and makes it painfully evident to her that his current mistress, Thea, is satisfactorily fulfilling all the roles she refused. He rubs it in by repeating the love-code he and Hedda once used — "absolute trust", "comrade in arms" — and thus activates the anger we have already sensed simmering beneath Gilbreath's winning surface. Her Hedda wants revenge, and gets it.

Thus does a scene packed with subtle resentments give the rest of the play urgency



Venom and vengeance: Crispin Lettis as Tesman and Alexandra Gilbreath as Hedda

and immediacy. That is a recommendation in itself, and there are others in Unwin's revival, notably Carol Starks's unusually strong and passionate Thea and David Killick's Judge Brack, a killer-dandy behind whose elegant morning suit and velvet silver

moustache is a tough predator very clearly prepared to transform Hedda into his private sex object. I shall never think of the English Touring Company so patronisingly again.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Merry musical debauchery

HENRY FIELDING's bawdy satirical novel is wonderfully rumbustious. The adventures of his Somerset rake are always game for spirited adaptations. Here the Theatre Royal's multitalented troupe — applauded for their *Moll Flanders* last summer — take the bull by the horns with a sense of fun and style. They are staging Fielding's episodic epic as a musical.

John Doyle's nine-strong company juggle characters,

Tom Jones Theatre Royal, York

instruments and theatrical inventiveness. Jeremy Harrison's Tom, losing his virginity, toots away on his trombone as Molly (frisky Elizabeth Marsh) rolls around at his feet. Before you can say "Jack Robinson", our roving founding has moved on to twanging a guitar, plucking a double

bass and singing a romantic duet with his devoted sweetheart Sophia (fiddle-playing Emma Kershaw).

George Stiles's score is merrily eclectic, arranged by Kate Edgar with everything to hand from bodhrans to alto saxes slung over springy hooped bustles. The best tunes echo period airs and operatic arias. The soft-rock numbers are less successfully integrated and too slushy for Fielding.

The key pleasure of Doyle's

adaptation is the preservation of the novel's narrative voice. The company chorus us through the chapters — "Part the First" and so on — at a gallop, racing us round way-side hostels, then town houses, and up and down two staircases. They poke their heads through curtains and picture frames, pulling hideous faces.

Fielding's rogues and wenches, envisaged by designer Jessica Tyrwhitt, might be punky elves. Tom's snooty rival Bliffl has cork-screwing blue hair. The country folk are also barnyard beasts. Squire Western is bewigged like a greasy ram. The maid at the inn stomps off like a retarded hen, legs stiff, chin sunk on chest, a tuft of feathers sticking out of her otherwise bald pate. Whitened faces with dark streaks round the eyes give a whiff of grotesque diseases while the porter Sophia has a hint of Columbine.

However, Harrison is a mildly disappointing hero. He fails to sizzle with sex appeal. The ladies outshine the gents here, including Mike Alford who transforms himself into a delightful drag landlady, simply tying a ballooning lacy skirt under his armpits and primping lightly. Some of the singing needs sharpening. The production runs out of steam and the closing plot twists concerning Tom's parentage could be tidier. But en route we are shown a good time.

KATE BASSETT

From Russia with verve

THE conductor Gennady Rozhdensvsky is a mercurial musician with one of the widest repertoires in the business, and few could have matched the way he went to the heart of three utterly different works in the span of Thursday's Prom. His programme with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, of which he was formerly chief conductor, contrasted Bruckner, Stravinsky and Schnittke in stimulating succession, each revealing another side of his impulsive temperament.

Impulsiveness is hardly the first quality that Bruckner conductors need, and Rozhdensvsky, who has played all the composer's symphonies in Russia, never let it obstruct the idiomatic flow in his performance of the Second Symphony. But it was turned to advantage: his tendency to live for each moment meant that the blazing ends of the outer movements crept up excitingly. The Scherzo and its yodeling Trio rolled along with vigour, but elsewhere Rozhdensvsky took an unhurried view of the music, emphasising its early Romantic roots. He received glowing playing from the orchestra.

Stravinsky's Capriccio for Piano and Orchestra came as a complete contrast. Its concerto grosso-like groupings within the orchestra place it firmly among the composer's Neo-Classical works, and although Tchaikovsky seems to cast a shadow in places, the

BBC SO/
Rozhdensvsky
Albert Hall/Radio 3

piece remains one of the freshest from his middle period. The solo part, which Stravinsky wrote for himself to play, was dispatched here with clarity and spiky brilliance by Victoria Postnikova.

The score mixes melancholy lyricism with high-spirited vigour, and Rozhdensvsky caught every mood. He also turned up as arranger of the final item: a suite from Schnittke's film score *Dead Souls*, receiving its first London performance. Inspired by Gogol's classic, it is full of grotesque irony. It is also patchy, but the best is worthy of Prokofiev's and Shostakovich's cinematic efforts. One of Schnittke's 60-or-so movie scores, it includes rousing dances, a march in Soviet military style and numerous effects: the orchestra includes a battery of percussion, organ, harpsichord and two metronomes. Rozhdensvsky was lively and also played to the crowd with overstatement, typically Russian antics — much like the last night of the Proms, but more fun.

JOHN ALLISON

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Richard Shone, impressed by a new exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, considers attempts to capture writers on canvas

Recording the master's likeness

I hate your coming. I can't abide sitting. Such was Tennyson's unpropitious greeting to Hubert van Herkmer when he arrived at the poet's home on the Isle of Wight to take the great man's likeness. For someone who hated sitting to artists and photographers, Tennyson must have indeed suffered, for he is one of the most profusely portrayed writers of the last century. He was most memorably recorded in photographs by Julia Margaret Cameron despite the fact that her subjects were impelled to sit still for what seemed like an eternity. Tennyson cavilled at the public exposure the published photographs entailed, complaining that innkeepers doubted their charges as soon as they saw him coming. Nor, he added, did he like the bags under his eyes (fortunately for us, Mrs Cameron was a notorious un-retoucher).

We find here all the elements that have run through the recording of writers with brush, pencil or lens. From the subjects' viewpoint there was, on the one hand, an abhorrence of personal publicity — there was something vulgar about seeing oneself in the illustrated papers; on the other, an image helped to boost sales, gave the public a face with

which to identify. From the recorders' point of view, the snaring of a "celebrity" was a coup and might lead to glittering commissions. Muddying the waters in between were ruffled vanity, haggling over fees, impetuous painters and wearied sitters.

To photograph a writer is usually a less fraught and time-consuming business than to paint one. *Literati*, the exhibition of photographs of writers by Mark Gerson which has just opened at the National Portrait Gallery, suggests a comfortable rapport between the photographer and his subjects. We find an off-duty world of beaming novelists and convivial poets from Waugh and Murdoch to Ishiguro and A.N. Wilson. They have put their best foot forward, and if one or two look a little haggard and others mildly preoccupied, most smile obligingly. That the photographs were taken for publicity in the press explains the general air of pleasant relaxation, even to Muriel Spark shopping in Peckham Rye.



Gerson's Poets at Faber & Faber Party, 1960: Spender, Auden, Hughes, Eliot and MacNeice

To be painted for a portrait is quite a different matter, as many of the surrounding works at the gallery testify: portraiture has run out of steam and most images are mediocre or routine or, the artist trying to make a splash, end up as wilfully eccentric. But aesthetic considerations are not always the point and for likenesses of some of

our greatest writers (Shakespeare above all) we rely on works by amateur or justly unknown hands. That little sketch on Ivory by Cassandra Austen is all we have of her sister. Some authors never came within the orbit of an artist: others were naturally retiring. But even they — Charlotte Brontë for example — could be persuaded to

sit if their publisher (as in her case) was sufficiently pressing. The fact that Virginia Woolf hated an artist's scrutiny of her face perhaps lies behind her tart refusal to be drawn for the Portrait Gallery's collection. "They send round a wretched boy to draw me in one sitting; then they keep the drawing in a cellar, and when I've been dead

ten years they have it out and say 'Does anyone want to know what Mrs Woolf looked like?' 'No', say all the others. Then it's torn up."

But some writers positively wallowed in the attentions of the painter and photographer — the faces of Bernard Shaw, Edith Sitwell and Somerset Maugham are known throughout the world. Even Henry James, who sat for Sargent in 1913, purred with satisfaction. — "I am really quite ashamed to admire it so much and so loudly," he told a friend — "it's so much as if I were calling attention to my own fine points. I don't, alas, exhibit a 'point' in it, but I am all large and luscious rotundity — by which you may see how true a thing it is."

James liked his portrait at once. When in 1949 Graham Sutherland painted his world-famous neighbour in France, Somerset Maugham, Maugham was not allowed to see the picture until it was completed. Sutherland provided some bracing champagne at a studio private-viewing. Maugham

soon recovered from his initial shock — "I was really stunned. Could this face really be mine?" — and came greatly to admire it. And by this one work, Sutherland was launched as an international portraitist.

Only Sir Gerald Kelly, remained sceptical: "To think that I have known Willie since 1902 and have only just recognised that, disguised as an old madame, he kept a brothel in Shanghai!"

Much depends on a writer's friends, on his or her availability, on some feeling for art, if posterity is to view him or her through a distinguished eye. In Britain, painters and writers rarely meet. Our leading figurative artists favour fellow practitioners over writers, and commissioned portraits have all the unpredictability of a *ma-riage de convenance*. Sympathy and friendship seem the best bet — T.S. Eliot by Wyndham Lewis or W.H. Auden by Coldstream are striking portraits that are also works of art. But if marriages of this kind are out of the question, then a date with Mark Gerson and his camera is the next best thing.

The author is Associate Editor of The Burlington Magazine.

Where will the people go?

Paul Barker wants planners to adopt Victorian values

The market towns of England are bursting at the seams. The most extreme example, perhaps, is Banbury. Since the M40 snaked through the Oxfordshire countryside, the pressure to build more and more houses has left the relics of the old town stranded, like a dying turtle on Bilkini beach, amid the new brickwork. It is such a handy place for Birmingham or London.

Banbury is not alone. Every big city is now ringed by towns and villages which once were little rural jewels but which are now encrusted with estates of "executive homes".

The latest alarm signal comes from the Town and Country Planning Association. This week it published its national inquiry into housing pressures. *The People — Where Will They Go?* echoes a question posed, almost a hundred years ago, by Ebenezer Howard, the founding father of the Garden Cities and New Towns movements.

For Howard, the trouble lay in the soot-encrusted squalor of the old industrial city. Agriculture, meanwhile, was in depression. Answer: shift the people from the city on to cheap, underused farmland.

Now it is the flight from the cities that seems unstoppable. Money has been poured in but people and businesses wish to get out. Once, it was thought that a Green Belt around cities would limit their growth. It didn't work. The city just jumped across. So, for example, Oxford has become the new Hampstead. Its intelligentsia take the train to Paddington, in the way that classic Hampsteadites used to catch the Northern Line.

Planners sometimes seem like Canute's courtiers. The flow of populations is hard to hold back. And the forecasts are so often wrong. Thus, the white elephant Humber bridge was intended to link the two halves of a projected new city, "Humberopolis". This was going to mop up the baby-boom population growth of the 1960s. Came the P11; the birth trend dipped. No such city was needed.

Today, the British population is barely replacing itself. Divorce breaks up families. Working women put off having children. Without immigration and the high birthrate of migrant families, the population would be falling.

But we can't all lie back and relax. As people get richer (as, on the whole, they do), they want bigger houses and out of town, rather than in. There are also more people on their own. Some are elderly; some are getting away from their parents; some of them are between marriages or partnerships.

If you project these trends forward (despite the warning of Humberopolis), you will end up with half of southern England covered with brick. The Department of the Environment last year claimed that England would have to build 4.4 million extra homes over the next 25 years, provoking the panic headline that we would need "27 new Milton Keyneses".

A pokerwork motto should be nailed up in every planning office: "Present Trends May Not Continue". There is an analogy with cinema-going. Up to the mid-1980s, ticket sales in Britain were dropping like a stone. Then the purpose-built multiplex was invented. Cinema attendances may never get back to the multi-millions of their heyday but they are currently rising very nicely.

So what is to be done about house-building? Some things simply have to be accepted. The English countryside is more and more of an artefact. Hardly anyone in it has any real rural function. If people prefer this to city life, we cannot easily stop them. Attempts to push the population back towards the cities can be as damaging as the alternatives. In the recent campaign to turn the tide, many houses have been built on green spaces within cities — such as playing fields. No wonder we do so badly in the Olympics.

But Ebenezer Howard was a wise old bird. Even though circumstances have changed, his solution is flexible enough to revive. The New Towns may be derided by metropolitan critics, but the best of them provide thousands of modest, pleasant homes. We don't need 27 new cities, but some well-sited new towns — new Banburys for the 21st century — would ease the present pressures. Which party will have the creative radicalism to put this into its manifesto?

The author is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Community Studies.

Town planners sometimes seem like Canute's courtiers

Pleasure is the only point

Simon Barnes

pleads for a sense of proportion in the great Olympic post mortem

The great summer of sport began with the "feel-good" factor. Now the nation moves to the season's closing ceremony in the grip of the "feel-bad" factor. This has been the worst Olympic Games for Great Britain since 1952, when the country won a single gold for show-jumping: conclusive proof that Britain is an old bitch gone in the teeth, a botched civilisation.

Odd to think that just a few weeks ago, Britain was the greatest country on earth, a plucky little nation of great traditions dishing it out left and right to Johnny Foreigner.

It began with the European football championships, with England reaching the semi-finals where they played well before being beaten on penalties. It continued with all things Wimbledon, where for once we had a fortnight free of losing-Brit jokes. Tim Henman, a gangling schoolboy with the eyes of an assassin, reached the quarter-finals and had the country in the grip of Henmania.

Then to the Olympic Games. In each of the previous four Olympics — Moscow, Los Angeles, Seoul, Barcelona — Britain won five gold medals. It seemed fair to expect such a haul this time. But as I write these words, on a humid and overcast Atlanta morning, Britain has but a single gold: contributed by a pair of giants by the name of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, who are rather good at rowing.

Only one! And the national weathercock, hit once again by the hurricanes of sport, whirled helplessly round to point the opposite way, to gloom, misery and despair.

This is silly. It is also the life-blood of sport. Sport is heaven and hell: feast and famine. Sport is not good in grey areas, but then it doesn't have very many. That is what is — not terribly subtle — pleasures of sport are all about.

Sport is also about minute measurements. You need a micrometer to measure the gap between glory and anguish. Last Saturday, Britain's Olympic expectations were at their highest. Consider these measurements, and, if you must, what they show about the nature of British civilisation: 14 thousandths of a second, a quarter of an inch, and six inches.

The first is the amount of time by which Linford Christie quite literally jumped the gun in the final of the 100 metres. This infinitesimal error — an error of boldness — gave him his second false start, and disqualification. This set the tone for national depression.

The quarter of an inch was the distance by which Jonathan Edwards, the triple-jumper, stepped beyond the board in his penultimate leap. It was a bit of a quantum leap, too: it looked good enough to win. But being a foul, it was not measured, and the gold was gone. Edwards is a quirky fellow, as well as a stand-up-and-be-counted Christian. Some



The face of British sport: Linford Christie bows out of the 100 metres in Atlanta

like to say that his performance depends on which chapter of Leviticus he has read that morning; but last Saturday, it all came down to Numbers. Or vulgar fractions, anyway.

The cruellest fraction of all was the half-foot that separated Lynn Simpson from a gold medal in the white-water canoe slalom that same day. Simpson is one of those athletes we celebrate once every four years, when they emerge from their caves of obscurity and come blinking into the Olympic daylight.

Simpson is very tough, very Yorkshire, a world champion, and her father made her first canoe at night school. She is, in short, an archetype of British life. And fast: she beat the field home in the Olympic competition by eight seconds, or by a country kilometre.

But the judges said she missed gate 11 by a whisker, and that decision sent her back from first place to 21st. "I turned six inches too early," she said afterwards. These are judgments and measurements about the

thickness of a flag-paper, and from such timeliness and decisions come the heaven and hell of sport.

These are the facts behind the results. Do these vulgar fractions say anything relevant beyond sport? Is this bad luck, the rub of the green, individual failure? Is the country forever a flag-paper away from greatness? And does it, for that matter, matter?

The rulers of this country have traditionally had an equivocal attitude to sport: happy to be associated with success, quick to remove themselves from failure. Anything like State interference — or for that matter, coherent policy — has been frowned on. Sport is not really our business: that is the message. Sport is undignified.

Many other countries have considered sport of colossal national importance: emphatically the business of government. The Soviet sporting machine was the most considerable example, the East German, the most ruthless.

China still operates a State-financed system of elitism. This reached its peak at the world swimming championships in 1994, when 12 of 16 women's titles were won by the Chinese. Chinese swimmers have also had 19 positive drugs tests since 1991. What does a nation get from such triumphs, such disasters? Hard to quantify, but one thing is clear. To China, sport matters.

And it matters to Britain, or at least, to the British. At such times of sporting failure, it is time, not to bow to Britain's slump on the international machismo stock exchange, but to work out what we actually want from sport and its practitioners. Mere success? Perfect elitism?

Bear in mind the fact that bungling money at a sport does not bring instant success. The Wimbledon tennis tournament makes a fortune, which all goes to the development of the British game. Tennis gets more than three times as much money as the rest of all the governing bodies of sport put together, receive from the Sports Council, and there are more than 100 of them. Henman apart, tennis has for years been a disaster area.

It is not true that the official coddling of athletes is an aspect of totalitarian government. The United States has the college system. Certainly, this is open to abuses and corruption. It is in many cases, quite ruthless. It is also a system that allows many elite athletes to reach their potential. In the United States, sport is a serious matter.

The British system, if it can be dignified by such a name, is better at depth than elitism. British track and field performers are really quite good in an awful lot of events: British teams do well in the European Cup; they are much less of a factor at the Olympic Games. In judo, the team spirit is wonderful, and few countries have so many good performers of both sexes at so many weights. But only one British fighter got near a medal: Nicola Fairbrother was beaten in the bronze medal bout.

The question never asked is what we — as a nation, as individuals — actually want from all this sport. John Major, who rightly finds sports and athletes more amusing and edifying than politics and politicians, has the key within his grasp, but even he lacks the simplicity of mind to turn it in the lock.

And the answer is pleasure. Pleasure for those who do it, and for those who watch it. It really is as simple as that. And national pleasure, even about trivial stuff like sport, is not entirely a trivial matter. It is worth taking some thought for. And getting it right.

It is true that this has been, by a series of fractions and disasters and injuries, a poor Olympic Games for this country. It is also true that these things are cyclical, and that champions will come again. Breast-beating about the national character, and whether not "we" have lost the will to win, are rather beside the point.

The perceived disaster provides an opportunity for each sport to reassess its methods: for those in power to contemplate a considerable national pleasure; for us all to think for a moment about the meaning of sport. For there are two serious errors one can make about sport. One is to think that it is important: the other is to think that it is unimportant.

Simon Jenkins is away.

Africa hand

ZULUS are soon to have a touch of Berkeley Square in their midst as John Aspinall, zoo keeper, lion-hugger and gambler prepares to open a casino in KwaZulu/Natal.

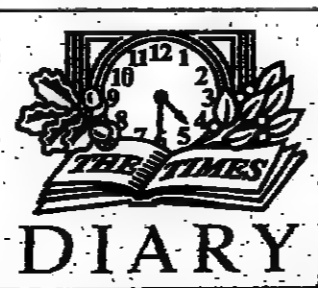
The local gaming board still has to approve the project, but the venue is a natural extension of Aspinall's close friendship with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Aspinall is a keen admirer and financial supporter of the Zulus and believes Nelson Mandela's ANC to be a grave threat to the tribe's noble culture and traditions. Chief Buthelezi even took time off in the middle of the recent municipal elections in KwaZulu/Natal to attend Aspinall's flashy 70th birthday party in London.

This latest venture is not Aspinall's first sally into the expanding South African market. Last year, backed by his gambling buddies Sir James Goldsmith and Kerry Packer, he bid to develop an area around Durban.

Even if the project does come to nothing, which is highly unlikely, Aspinall need hardly be concerned. He can always retire to the Citizen Kane splendour of his estate near Cape Town, where springboks stroll by as lunch is taken in the cool shadow of Table Mountain.

Missing in transit: a vast container of books belonging to the Museum of London. Curators expecting the shipment from Chicago found themselves unpacking in-



stead a consignment of transmitters addressed to the Royal Saudi Air Force. Pilots in Riyadh are no doubt struggling to make sense of a job lot of history books and photographs picked up by the museum at the Chicago book fair.

That's my boy

CHARLIE Kray, who has been charged with plotting to peddle £78 million-worth of cocaine, is remembered fondly by teachers at Daneford School, Bethnal Green, for the manner in which he brought up his late son Gary.

In the 1970s, he used to drive Gary to the school in a Plymouth car of the variety favoured by gangsters. "Gary was a fastidious pupil, immaculately turned out, exemplar-

ry behaviour," remembers one old boy who led him through the three Rs. "He brought a Gideon Bible to school every day. Not for use as a missile but for reflection and meditation."

In for a penny

SECOND in our series of sports which, if included in the Olympics, would offer British medal chances: shove ha'penny. A pub game, invented in the 16th century, it is referred to in Shakespeare as "shove groat". Particularly popular in the North, its influence has spread south with the world championships currently held in Gloucestershire.

In Ugglesbarnby, home of world championship quots, they growl with low-browed resentment at the shovers' inexorable rise. Great players of the past include the cricketer Fred Trueman and Sid Waddell, the voice of darts, who used to play regularly at the Dun Cow in Durham against a sausage maker called Revell the Devil. He is perhaps the sport's only poet, writing in his important work *Indoor League*: "Shove ha'penny demands more concentration than darts, but the touch must be as light as a butterfly's eyelash." Pindar

could not have put it better. Suggestions, please, on other games to better our medal-winning chances.

Treble chance

A FAMILY connection with the Proms spanning almost half a century was re-established last night as Patrick Groves, ten, sung lustily with the Winchester Cathedral Choir (where I, too, was a chorister) at the Royal Albert Hall.

Patrick's first passion is football — but he is also grandson of the late and lamented Proms conductor Sir



High note: Patrick

Charles Groves, a Falstaffian figure, who raised his baton at the Albert for four decades from the early 1950s.

Cash call

THE actor Simon Ward, remembered for his portrayal of Winston Churchill in the film *Young Winston*, has munificent friends. One of them has just paid off a debt of some £2,000 to Clare Latimer, the former Downing Street caterer, which Ward incurred in June last year.

"The matter has been settled," said Clare stirring furiously in her kitchen yesterday. "I did the catering for his daughter Claudia's wedding last year, and have only just been paid."

Dirty dancing

THE NAKED hype of the appalling West End musical *Voyeurz* may yet be pipped by the Royal Festival Hall, which purports to be putting on an evening of "unparalleled eroticism" by way of a dance show.

The musical *Billboards* combines classical ballet with the music of the artist formerly known as Prince; it features fully-grown men



Caught in a clinch

prancing about their intended ladies in skimpy satin shorts and thigh-length boots. Promoters claim that the show would make even Tom Jones blush. Worse still, the theatre is offering its boxes under the name of "Love Boxes" to amorous couples. "They provide the opportunity for couples to hold hands in private," says a spokeswoman pathetically.

P.H.S.

20/11/1950



JUSTICE DENIED

Italy, rocked by the Priebeke verdict, finds its legal system guilty

An important war crimes trial in Italy, poorly handled from the outset, has culminated in a judgment so grotesque that Italians have once again risen in outrage to question the trustworthiness of their national institutions. The former German SS captain, Erich Priebeke, stood accused of participating in Italy's worst single wartime atrocity, the massacre at the Ardeatine caves in March, 1944. At the end of a three-month trial in a military court, the presiding magistrate this week found Priebeke guilty of "complicity in violence with multiple homicide". He then ordered his release, on the ground that "extenuating circumstances" rendered him not guilty of "cruelty and premeditation", the other part of the charge, and that a 30-year statute of limitations therefore applied to the case. For good measure, he added that the reasons for this extraordinary decision were so complex that the full text of the court's ruling would not even be published for another 90 days.

The notion that "extenuating circumstances" could be applied to this case insults both the victims and the notion of justice. Priebeke has never denied participating in the massacre of 335 Italian men and boys, 75 of them Jews, who in March, 1944 were rounded up and shot in reprisal for a partisan attack on German troops. He admits to having shot two in person, and to ticking the names of the victims off a list as they were herded five at a time into the caves.

His defence that he had no choice but to obey orders was ultimately rejected, as it was in the Nuremberg trials. The Wehrmacht's penal code gave soldiers the right to refuse to execute hostages, a right respected by the Nazis more often than not. In this particular case, the German military unit in Rome that the partisans had attacked refused to carry out the reprisal massacre; it was not punished. His second defence, that the massacre was a "legitimate" reprisal and not a crime, revealed him as a man untouched by remorse. Yet by two to one, the magistrates appear to have concluded that his "postwar good conduct" as an escaped prisoner of war prospering in Argentina, the

"minor" nature of his participation in the crime and his advanced age combined to outweigh the horror of the crime itself.

This judicial farce could have been avoided. The first critical decision was to try Priebeke, as a former soldier, in a military court accustomed to dealing with petty offences in the armed forces, rather than a civilian court. Italy is one of only seven countries to use military courts in peacetime; it should end the practice forthwith. The second was to charge him with multiple homicide instead of crimes against humanity, to which no statute of limitations applies. More questions arose as the trial proceeded.

Agostino Quistelli, the presiding judge, seems to have had little sense of the historical importance of this case or zeal to ensure that justice was seen to be done. He refused to hear testimony from scores of potential witnesses and before the trial started, told two court officials that Priebeke was just obeying orders and ought to be cleared; yet two applications to an appeal court to disqualify him for bias and order a new trial were rejected. When the victims' families erupted in grief and rage at the verdict, Judge Quistelli found their protests "exaggerated". He had found him guilty, he commented; "what do they want, his head?"

Italy has reacted with shame and disbelief, in an outpouring unequalled since the murder of Giovanni Falcone, the heroic Sicilian magistrate whose assassination in 1992 turned the nation decisively against the Mafia. The prosecution will appeal and the Government, deeply embarrassed, re-arrested Priebeke after eight hours of mayhem around the courtroom. He is now held in Regina Coeli prison, from which some of the Ardeatine victims were plucked, pending a German request for extradition. Argentina, which would have to agree, has already banned his return to his place of exile and may co-operate. But the legal tangle is now so complex that he could yet walk free. If he does, Italy will relive the horror of its poisoned historical alliance with Nazi evil; this, in a symbolic sense, was what the court in Rome failed this week to confront.

NANNY STATE

Families have suffered from Tory tax reforms

Should families pay the same tax on the same income as people without children? To most governments in most countries the answer has seemed obvious. Bringing up children is a hugely demanding and expensive commitment, and the tax system should recognise that people who take on the responsibility of nurturing the next generation should have their extra financial burdens and their social contributions recognised by remissions of tax. Britain today, by contrast, is one of the few societies in history with a system designed to make no distinction between parents and taxpayers with nobody but themselves to support. Furthermore, the elimination from the tax system of any recognition of the responsibility for rearing children has been largely the work of a Conservative Party whose ethical principles were built on the virtue of family life.

These are among the most disturbing findings of a path-breaking paper, *Are Families Affordable?*, written by the conservative sociologist Janet Morgan and published this week by the Centre for Policy Studies. The paper's significance lies firstly in its analysis of the large fiscal detriment to families that has resulted from the past 17 years of tax reform. Virtually all single people have seen some reduction in their tax burden under the Tories. But couples with two children earning less than twice national average earnings have seen their tax burdens substantially increase.

For the very poorest families, those eking out an income of half national average wages, the tax burden has jumped fourfold from 2.4 per cent to 10 per cent. For single people on the same income, by contrast, the

tax burden has modestly declined. The paper suggests three underlying reasons for this anti-family bias. First, there is the Treasury's belief that taxes should be as "neutral" as possible: if somebody chooses to spend time and money playing golf rather than bringing up children, the State has no business discriminating between these two lifestyles. The second argument is that child benefits have replaced tax allowances and represent a better way for the State to help parents. The third argument is that State support should be targeted to those most in need, particularly to parents who find it hardest to earn a living because of family responsibilities: in practice, single mothers.

Ms Morgan debunks all three fallacies. She offers evidence that public policy is dangerously biased in favour of single parents, even though the great majority of children in poverty still live with two parents. She shows how targeting creates poverty traps and disincentives to work — and how efforts to resolve these problems spawn new benefits, new costs and new disincentives.

But above all she questions the fundamental assumption that welfare benefits are a better way to support child-rearing than tax allowances. Why should the State always pursue social objectives by paying welfare benefits, rather than by remitting taxes? To allow people with family responsibilities to keep more of their own income is far healthier for society than to make them dependent on the State's largesse. That successive Chancellors have forgotten such a fundamental conservative axiom shows how far Britain has slid into a dependency culture even under 17 years of Tory rule.

RULE BRITANNIA

A new Royal Yacht could be a ship for the nation

As Cowes Week opens today, one distinguished and much-loved old visitor is celebrating what may be her last appearance. Next year the Royal Yacht *Britannia* will head either for a retirement home or the scrapyard. In a typical display of political indecision, ministers seem unable to decide what to do with her or whether and how to replace her. This vacillation is hard to fathom. The old *Britannia* should clearly be berthed at Portsmouth or Greenwich, as a tourist attraction and hospitality venue. Either the Government could sell it to a suitable owner and plough the proceeds into a replacement, or the income from the old yacht could help to support the new one.

For it is inconceivable that a replacement should not be built at all. One of the few skills at which this nation excels is the pomp and pageantry that surrounds our Royal Family. *Britannia* has been a superb diplomat for Britain abroad; foreign statesmen and businessmen love being entertained on the yacht, and as a symbol of Britain's prestige, it can hardly be bettered. Some £500 million worth of exports deals are clinched every year on its decks.

Moreover, there is one proposal for a new *Britannia* that, in imagination and beauty, could surpass even the old one. The Cadland Consortium, led by Maldwyn Drummond, Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron,

has come up with the idea of a soaring, square-rigged sailing-ship. A high-tech fusion of traditional and modern, she would move equally well under sail or engine, the rig being controlled by computers and the hull made of steel. She would serve many purposes, used for State visits, as a training ship for youth, a showcase for British companies and a tourist attraction when at berth. The idea is that she should be not just a Royal Yacht, but truly a ship for the nation. She would be a vessel for the millennium too, ecologically conscious and democratic. Unlike a motor boat, she would soar over any other ship in a foreign harbour.

The clincher is that she does not need to cost a penny of public money. The consortium claims to be able to raise all the necessary money itself (though doubtless a small contribution from the Lottery or from the sale of the old yacht would not go amiss). So efficient is she that her annual running costs would be half that of today's *Britannia*. She would be manned by 180 "Queen's Cadets" at a time, 3,500 of them a year from all backgrounds, who would learn teamwork and independence as well as sailing skills.

The new *Britannia* apparently has the enthusiastic backing of Buckingham Palace. She deserves ministerial support. This Cowes Week would be the perfect time for the Government to give her a fair wind.

Difficulties over legalised brothels

From Mr Cedric Hayes, JP

Sir, Public opinion would surely not countenance legalised brothels (reports, July 30; article, July 31). Also my experience in the courts shows that most prostitutes are part-time independent operators, unlikely to submit to registration involving registration and health checks: many would doubtless continue to work outside the system, rendering reforms largely useless.

So-called herb-crawlers, however, would have no need to approach the women in public places, greatly reducing a public nuisance and also avoiding the possibility of arrest and, for many, disgrace.

Sadly, without the first, the second cannot be effected.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC HAYES,
14 Thurlough Road,
Didsbury, Manchester,
July 31.

From Mr James G. Fluss

Sir, The claim by Rachel Campbell-Johnston ("The case for legalising brothels", July 31) that "Prostitution represents the exploitation of the impoverished female by the affluent male" is feminist nonsense. One could just as easily claim that by charging 30p for *The Times*, News International is a news-rich organisation exploiting the public's lack of news.

The simple truth is that every market transaction involves a buyer and seller. Each of them feels that what they receive is worth at least what they pay to get it. It involves no "exploitation" at all.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES G. FLUSS,
138a Audley Road, NW4,
July 31.

From Mr M. J. Price-Alexander

Sir, Rachel Campbell-Johnston writes that licensed brothels would provide protection for prostitutes; facilitate women's collectives; improve their health and guarantee their financial independence; enlarge the Government's coffers through tax; make the streets safer for all; free police for other duties; and might lead to a decline in the number of failed marriages, rape cases and sexual abuse of children.

Wonderful. And do you know, some people think I'm naive because, as a Christian, I believe the Bible when it warns against prostitution and other manifest evils.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. PRICE-ALEXANDER,
29 College Avenue,
Mudley, Plymouth, Devon,
July 31.

Butler and Suez

From Lady Butler of Saffron Walden

Sir, I have just read "Career sacrificed by the minister who refused to lie", July 26, a remark by Sir Anthony Nutting that my husband, Rab Butler, was one of four ministers who were "privity to the Suez plot".

He goes on to describe being himself present at the fateful meeting at Chequers of October 14, 1956, after which, the report continues, "Nutting believed his position was untenable" and his resignation followed.

May I point out that my husband was then in Scotland and proceeded from there to Calder Hall in attendance on the Queen when she opened the atomic power station. He returned to London on October 18 and went straight to No 10 Downing Street, where he received the news of a fait accompli from Sir Anthony Eden.

Whatever his own views on the matter were, his first instinct was to support his Prime Minister, and in this case he did so to his own personal detriment and without any previous consultation.

Yours faithfully,
MOLLIE BUTLER,
Spencers, Great Yeldham, Essex,
August 1.

Sauce for goose

From Mr Keith A. Waller

Sir, For Tony Blair to suggest that a Labour government would help our Olympic sportsmen and women (report, August 1, later editions) does, of course, mean supporting selection, competition and elitism. If on the sportsfield, why not in the classroom?

Yours faithfully,
KEITH A. WALLER,
11 Eagle Court,
Hemmon Hill, Wansstead, E11,
August 2.

£15m Shearer deal

From Mr Jon Scott

Sir, The heads of major industries, responsible for the jobs of thousands of people, are vilified by the public, politicians and the press as "fat cats" because of the salaries they earn, yet much larger earnings are apparently acceptable if one can kick a football (reports, July 30) or sing a song. Have I missed something?

Yours faithfully,
JON SCOTT,
72 Chiltern Avenue, Cosby, Leicester,
July 31.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London W14 6RN Telephone 0171-752 5000

Preserving the birthplaces of science

From Mr Kevin Brown

Sir, I endorse Hugh Aldersey-Williams's call (*Mind and Matter*, July 29) to raise the status of buildings associated with great scientists to the level enjoyed by the birthplaces of literary figures. However, even more than with literary figures, it is the working places of these scientists which are more important than their homes and would further the public understanding of science in its historical and cultural context.

Michael Faraday's laboratory at the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street is more important than his apartments there, though their proximity to each other is significant; and at the Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum, here at St Mary's, we have a birthplace museum with a difference — the birthplace of penicillin inside a hospital, placing the discovery in its true context.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN BROWN (Curator),
Alexander Fleming Laboratory
Museum,
St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, W2,
July 30.

From Mr David S. Ritchie

Sir, Hugh Aldersey-Williams's statement that there is no home or museum devoted to James Clerk Maxwell is incorrect.

In 1992 this foundation purchased Maxwell's birthplace in Edinburgh — a fine Georgian house, built for his father in 1820, where James was born in 1831. It remained in the family possession for nearly 70 years.

The house provides a museum in his honour, displaying family portraits and paintings, first editions of his books and original manuscripts. It also provides the centre for the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences (ICMS), formed by Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt and Stirling universities. Clerk Maxwell's achievements as a physicist, most notably in the electromagnetic field, rank with those of

Newton and Einstein, modifying the concepts of the former and inspiring the latter, who wrote that "one scientific epoch ended and another began with Clerk Maxwell".

Yours faithfully,
D. S. RITCHIE
(Director),
James Clerk Maxwell Foundation,
14 India Street, Edinburgh 3,
July 30.

From Dr G. C. Cook and others

Sir, Lichfield, famous as being the birthplace of Samuel Johnson, was also the home for some 25 years of Charles Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802) — archetypal polymath, physician, philosopher, botanist, inventor, poet and, perhaps most importantly, evolutionist and early exponent of the theories propounded by his grandson. Erasmus Darwin is commemorated by a plaque in Lichfield Cathedral, but no substantial monument exists. The Dean and Chapter of Lichfield Cathedral, together with the Erasmus Darwin Foundation, have developed plans to restore his Grade I-listed home, built in 1758, to provide a museum and associated educational facility. Linked to the house will be a herb garden commemorating Darwin's interest in botany and his authorship of *The Botanic Garden*.

We now seek corporate funding. Pride in our great scientific heritage could provide the catalyst that motivates schoolchildren, in this and future generations, to embark on a scientific career.

Yours faithfully,
G. C. COOK (Chairman,
Erasmus Darwin Foundation),
DESMOND KING-HELE,
DAVID WALLINGTON
(Chief Executive, Lichfield Cathedral),
Lichfield Cathedral,
Chapter Office, 19a The Close,
Lichfield, Staffordshire,
July 30.

Badger pests?

From Mr Peter Easton

Sir, Can the urbanisation of the South East have progressed so far (in the minds of its inhabitants) if not in the actual fabric of the area that your correspondent, Peter Gillies (letter, July 29; see also letter, July 29), writing from near Uckfield in Sussex, seriously believes that the place he shares in the countryside with the hen and the badger has come about as a result of natural order?

Such a notion might just about pass in a Walt Disney cartoon but it is dangerously unhelpful when discussing the future of one of man's finest creations — the English landscape.

His sentiment is unfortunately prevalent among people (but not among any animals of my acquaintance) who show a genuine desire to see natural things — fauna particularly — preserved. But conservation has little hope of success if it is not supported by a thorough understanding of how and for what purpose the countryside has been organised.

Stone of Scone

From Ms Caroline Bingham

Sir, Mr Peter G. Vasey (letter, July 26; see also letters, July 17, 24) suggests that Berwick-upon-Tweed would make a suitable home for the Stone of Scone, provided that Berwick too were restored to Scotland, since it was appropriated by Edward I in 1296.

Berwick was recaptured by Robert the Bruce in 1318, and remained a Scottish city until 1482, when it was occupied by English forces under Richard III, Duke of Gloucester, the future Richard III.

Does Berwick think itself Scots or English? Perhaps its citizens should be consulted, by plebscite.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE BINGHAM,
164 Regent's Park Road, NW1,
July 26.

Car pollution

From Mr P. H. J. Whyman

Sir, There is a need to draw a distinction between "old" and "poorly maintained" when reporting matters associated with vehicle exhaust emissions ("Pollution fears as old cars stay on road longer", July 29, early editions).

It is not the oldest 10 per cent of cars which are at fault — they simply do not get used enough to produce even a fraction of a per cent of overall vehicle pollution. The blame lies with those cars, usually between five and 15 years old, in the hands of people seeking to motor at the least possible cost. Through lack of proper maintenance they run close to (or beyond) the pollution limits set out in the MoT test. These cars may be the 10 per cent of pollution, but they are not the oldest 10 per cent.

Cars can only survive for 20 years or more if they are properly cared for. It is quite unfair on the thousands of enthusiasts within this Federation, who are dedicated to preserving old vehicles in the best possible condition, that their reputation should be sullied by the soot from the exhausts of newer, but poorly maintained, cars.

And lest anyone thinks that by scrapping a ten-year-old car in favour

of a new one they are contributing to a cleaner environment, it should be recalled that an immense amount of energy is used (and hence pollution created) in building new cars — equivalent to several years' worth of fuel per car.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. J. WHYMAN (Secretary),
Federation of British
Historic Vehicle Clubs,
Eton House, Church Lane,
Tydd St Giles,
Wisebeck, Cambridgeshire,
July 30.

From Mr David Edelsten

Sir, It is not amusing to be lectured on badgers from SW8, nor do I care a pin for the "latest national badger survey". These once welcome neighbours have become a pest round here, as have "conservation officers" et al.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EDELSTEN,
The Old Rectory,
Glanvilles Wootton,
Sherborne, Dorset,
July 29.

School reports

From Dr V. M. Shorrocks

Sir, The existence and scope of school reports for primary-school children will surely come as a surprise to many grandparents as schools close for the holidays.

Not only did our six-year-old granddaughter's report merit two pages and cover 11 subjects but it also included incriminating space for self-assessment.

Ruth had proudly written: "I enjoyed doing drawings in my topic book and painting my rabbit."

(The rabbit, by the way, is still white and fluffy.)
Yours faithfully,
VICTOR M. SHORROCKS,
12 Fox Close,
Wigginton, Tring, Hertfordshire,
July 26.

Trade descriptions

From Mr John J. Carney

Sir, If we have "coal face" junior doctors (letters, July 22, 26), then surely surgeons must be at the cutting edge.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN J. CARNEY,
62 Fitzroy Road, Tankerton, Kent,
July 26.

From Mr David J. Prescott

Sir, As a musician my views will often be in harmony but sometimes will lead to discord.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. PRESCOTT
(Director of Music,
Lancaster Royal Grammar School),
32 Greenwood Avenue,
Bolton-le-Sands,
Carnforth, Lancashire,
July 26.

From Mr Glyn Downton

Sir, An astronomer is far-sighted, a jeweller's view crystal clear, a door-man's open-ended, and a meteorologist is often long-winded.

Yours sincerely,
GLYNN DOWNTON,
66 Park Avenue, Maidstone, Kent,
July 26.

From Mr and Mrs J. A. Clemence

Sir, As restaurant owners our views are handed out on a plate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CLEMENCE,
ANN CLEMENCE,
Capstone Restaurant & Hotel,
St James' Place, Ilfracombe, Devon,
July 26.

From Mr Jason Barbour

Sir, With the advancing years robbing me of more and more of my hair, I suppose that my views come increasingly off the top of my head.

Yours faithfully,
JASON BARBOUR,
19 Cortayne Road, SW6,
July 26.

From Mr J. Gwyn Kennedy

Sir, Undoubtedly, the views of geologists are firmly based on solid bed rock principles, while those of palaeontologists result from leaving no stone unturned.

Yours faithfully,
J. GWYN KENNEDY,
74 Hampton Park Road, Hereford,
July 26.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-752 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
August 1: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, accompanied by The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was present at this evening of training and equestrian activities.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 2: The Duke of York, Patron, the Royal Marines Atlantic 3000 Rowing Race Team, this afternoon met members of the team at Royal Marines Poole, Dorset.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
August 2: The Prince of Wales, President, this morning visited a construction project undertaken by foundation course students of The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture at Eghurst, Surrey.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited the World and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major-General Sir Philip Ward).

The Prince of Wales afterwards opened the new Visitors' centre at West Dean gardens and visited West Dean College, Chichester.

Officers in their Mess.
Later The Queen lunched in the Officers' Mess.

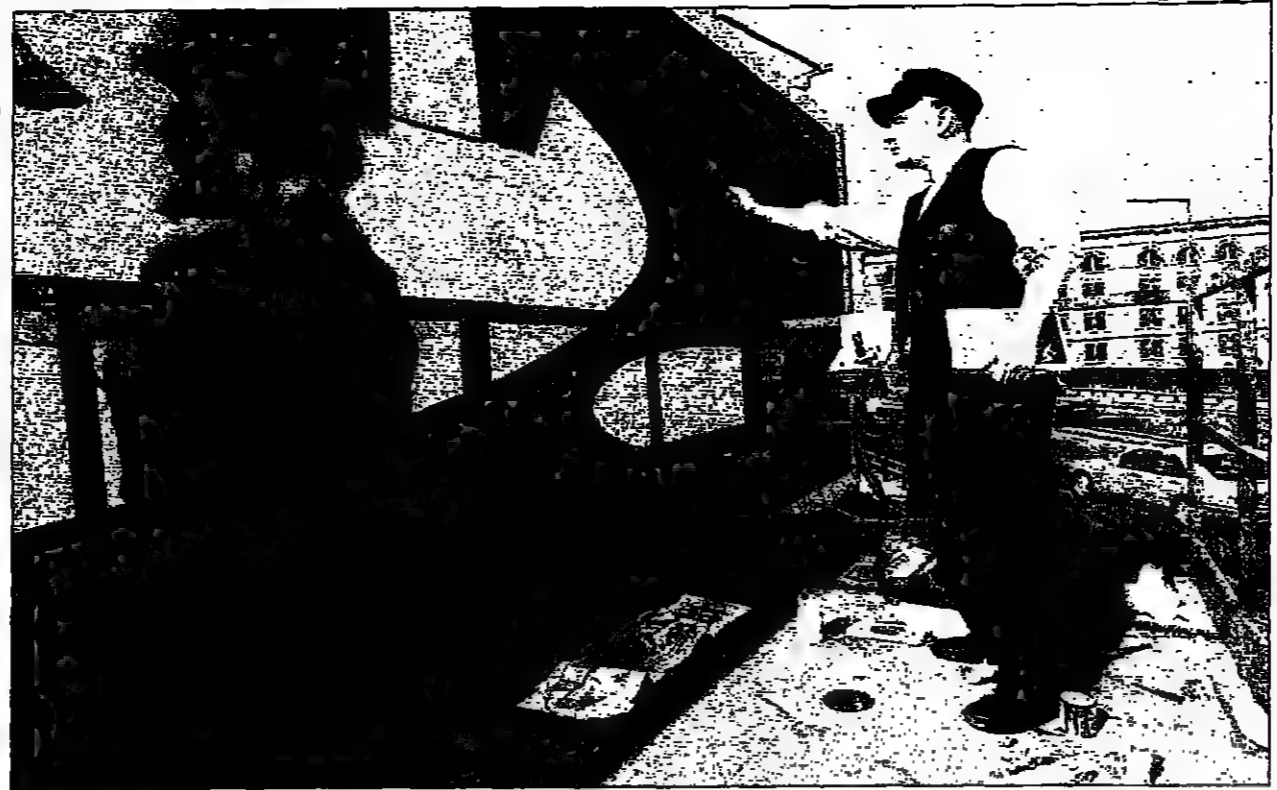
This afternoon Her Majesty watched various aspects of training and equestrian activities.

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Stephen Martin. The Times's Saturday sports portrait artist, wears a fitting hat as he works on a huge painting on an advertising hoarding 40ft above the Cromwell Road in west London. Great Western Trains has commissioned him to paint his own idea of a fantasy train carriage to start an advertising campaign. Mr Martin estimates that to complete the 400 sq ft painting will take a week, 10 gallons of rainproof paint and at least 10 brushes

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Charles Stanhope, 3rd Earl Stanhope, politician and man of science, London, 1733; Sir Joseph Paxton, gardener and designer of the Crystal Palace, Milton Bryant, Bedfordshire, 1801; Elsie Olsie, pioneer of the safety lift, Halifax, 1891; Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, Prime Minister 1923, 1924-29 and 1935-37, Lower Park, Bewdley, Worcestershire, 1867; Rupert Brooke, poet, Rugby, 1887; Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Primate of Poland 1949-81, Zuzela, near Warsaw, 1901.

DEATHS: King James II of Scotland, reigned 1437-60, killed, Roxburgh Castle, 1460; Grilling, Robert, 1460; Gibbons, wood carver, London, 1772.

1721: Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor, Cromford, Derbyshire, 1732; Sir Roger Casement, Irish nationalist, executed for high treason, London, 1916; Joseph Conrad, novelist, Canterbury, 1924; Albert Frederick Pollard, historian, Millford-on-Sea, 1948; Colette, writer, Paris, 1954; Archbishop Michael III, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Cyprus and President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nicosia, 1977.

1914: At the Battle of Canne, the Roman army supply depot was seized by a smaller army led by Hannibal, 316 BC.

1978: La Scala opera house in Milan opened, 1778.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: John Tradescant, gardener, Meopham, Kent, 1608; Edward Irving, founder of the Catholic Apostolic Church, Dumfries, 1792; Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, Field Place, Horsham, Sussex, 1792; Walter Pater, critic, Shrewsbury, London, 1839; W.H. Hudson, writer and naturalist, near Buenos Aires, 1841; Knut Hamsun, novelist and poet, Nobel laureate 1920, Lam, Norway, 1859; Sir Harry Lauder, music hall entertainer, Edinburgh, 1870; Sir Robert Lancelot, writer, London, 1908.

DEATHS: Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, killed at the Battle of Evesham, 1265; William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley, states-

man, London, 1598; John Bacon, sculptor, London, 1700; William Aytoun, poet, Elgin, 1805; Hans Christian Andersen, story-teller, Copenhagen, 1875; Baron Carl Auer von Welsbach, chemist and physicist, Teitbach, Austria, 1929; Rodney (Gypsy) Smith, evangelist, on board the Queen Mary en route for Florida, 1947; Roy Thomson, 1st Baron Thomson of Fleet, newspaper proprietor, 1976.

The Red Cross Society was founded in Britain, 1870.

Britain declared war on Germany, 1914.

Britain's first supersonic fighter plane, the P.1 English Electric Lightning, made its maiden flight from Boscombe Down, 1954.

Forthcoming marriages

Señor J. Cano and **Miss L. Grant**
The engagement is announced between Señor and Señora Cano, of Madrid, Spain, and Lisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Grant, of Plaisiow, West Sussex.

Mr J.A. Cochran and **Miss S.A. Gordon**
The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr Hugh Cochran and of Mrs Jenny Cochran, of Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, and Sarah, daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel Lord Douglas Gordon and of Lady Douglas Gordon, of Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Mr J.G. Henry and **Miss L.J. Boston**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan George, son of Dr and Mrs George Henry, of Nenagh, Co Tipperary, Ireland, and Lucy Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon K.C. Boston, recently of Japan and Bahrain.

Mr T. Howe and **Miss G.C. O'Farrell**
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs R. Howe, of Haworth, West Yorkshire, and Gina Claire, daughter of Mr Brian O'Farrell, of Hampton Wick, Surrey, and Mrs Lynne O'Farrell, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr S.A. Way and **Miss J.M. Wilkinson**
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Way, of Vermont, Victoria, Australia, and Jessica, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Alec Wilkinson, formerly of Brisbane, Australia, and of Okehampton, Devon.

Mr A.D. Harley and **Miss S.A. Harwood-Smith**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Harley, of Dunoon, Argyll, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Smith, of Assot, Berkshire.

Mr A.D. Hicks and **Miss C.M. Taylor**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alice Hicks, of Ealing, and Catherine Mary (Katie), elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Tim Taylor, of Goudhurst, Kent.

Mr N.W. Steer and **Miss R.A. Rogers**
The engagement is announced between Norman, son of the late Mr and Mrs W. Steer, of Guildford, and Rosemary, daughter of the late Dr Arthur Rogers, of Mrs Doreen Rogers, of Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Marriage
Mr C.E. McGrigor and **Miss M.S. Merryweather**
The marriage took place on July 20, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Akron, Ohio, of Mr Charles Edward McGrigor, younger son of Sir Charles and Lady McGrigor, of Upper Sonachan, Argyll, and Miss Melissa Susan Merryweather, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas R. Merryweather, of 465 Bastogne Drive, Akron, Ohio.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mr Charles Ward-Jackson, was best man. The reception was held at the Portage Country Club, Akron.

Service dinner

Essex Army Cadet Force
Lord Braybrooke, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Colonel R.P. Laurie, Honorary Colonel of the Essex Army Cadet Force, and Colonel K.R. Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Essex Anglian TAFVR County Association Committee, were the principal guests at a dinner of the cadet force held last night at

Wretham Training Camp, Thetford, Norfolk. Lieutenant-Colonel A.T. Branigan presided. Colonel C.A.F. Thomas, cadet commandant, and the officers were present.

During the evening the Lord-Lieutenant presented a Royal Signals cadet to the Lieutenant-Colonel Branigan from the officers to mark his pending retirement from the force after 27 years of adult service.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize winners were announced yesterday:

£100,000 (SVN 11264, winner has a holding of £1,071 and comes from Merseyside: 45N 17450, £1,327; Hertfordshire: 52GK 21610, £1,450, Hampshire).

£50,000 (SVN 52776, £5,000; Devon: 12BK 30042, £1,125; Surrey: 1SVN 72842, £400; Merseyside: 29QS 88627, £20,000; Kent: 36CT 20490, £5,000; Berkshire: 31DS 88302, £10,000; Hertfordshire: 25S 30423, £4,500; Barrow, London: 21WF 78137, £3,000; Warwickshire).

£25,000 (SVN 160924, £19,510; Leicestershire: 11GS 41237, £19,597; Cheshire: 28NK 58715, £10,000; West Sussex: 18L 05103, £9,002; Kent: 49R 80384, £1,500; East Sussex: 27DT 40579, £5,500; Dorset: 8UP 47198, £20,000; Kenton and Chislehurst, London: 12N 82125, £3,227; Mid Glamorgan: 19ST 58123, £5,700; Greater Manchester: 43AZ 94742, £13,000; Berkshire: 35MB 80747, £2,500; Devon: 8ML 08603, £10,237; Walsworth, Forest, London).

Christening

The infant son of Bill and Lindy Barnes was christened Timothy William Ian by the Rev Alan Didden at St Nicolas's, Taplow, Buckinghamshire, on Sunday, July 23, 1996. The godparents are John and Edwina Bone, Richard and Joan Brightwell and Philip and Marjorie Chandler.

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Appointments

Sir Mark Waller and Sir John Munro, Justices of the High Court of Justice, to be Lord Justices of Appeal in succession to Sir Brian Neill and Sir Patrick Russell who will be retiring at the end of September.

Field Marshal Sir Peter Anthony Inge has been appointed Constable of the Tower of London in succession to Field Marshal Sir John Wilfred Stanier who has retired. Mr Inge has been appointed a Crown Estate Commissioner in succession to the late Angus Macdonald.

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MICHEL DEBRÉ

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NEWS

Europe ready to scrap beef deal

John Major's hopes of lifting most of the ban on British beef exports by November were in tatters last night after Germany and Brussels virtually tore up the deal that ended the beef war with Europe.

After the revelation that mad cow disease can be passed from mother to calf, Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, has called for a rethink of the framework drawn up in Florence six weeks ago. Pages 1, 4

Ulster Volunteers disband rogue group

The loyalist terrorist group, the Ulster Volunteer Force, disbanded a rogue unit that has persistently called for an end to the loyalist ceasefire. Page 1

Training for terrorists

Iran runs a network of 11 training camps for foreign terrorists, according to a report based on classified American intelligence documents. Page 1

Lewis heads for record

America's star athlete Carl Lewis will probably have a chance today to become the most gilded Olympian of all time — but only after a rum chapter of committee-room manoeuvres and commercial muscle-flexing. Page 1

Wealthy workers

A two-storey office block in Derby houses one of the richest collections of employees in Britain — Porterbrook directors. Page 2

Contestant paralysed

A woman Gladiators contestant was lying paralysed in hospital after a terrifying fall during rehearsals for the television series. She suffered serious spinal injuries while rehearsing for the combat game. Page 3

Newcastle in line to be story corner

Britain's first museum devoted to children's literature is intended to stop manuscripts and illustrations being snapped up by overseas collectors. Newcastle upon Tyne is being considered as a home for The Centre for the Children's Book. Page 7

Eagles to be freed

A batch of rare white-tailed sea eagles is being freed in Scotland despite growing anger among farmers who say the birds are killing livestock. Page 5

Hume criticised

"Pro-life" campaigners have criticised Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, for saying that frozen embryos should be allowed to die. Page 10

Final appearance

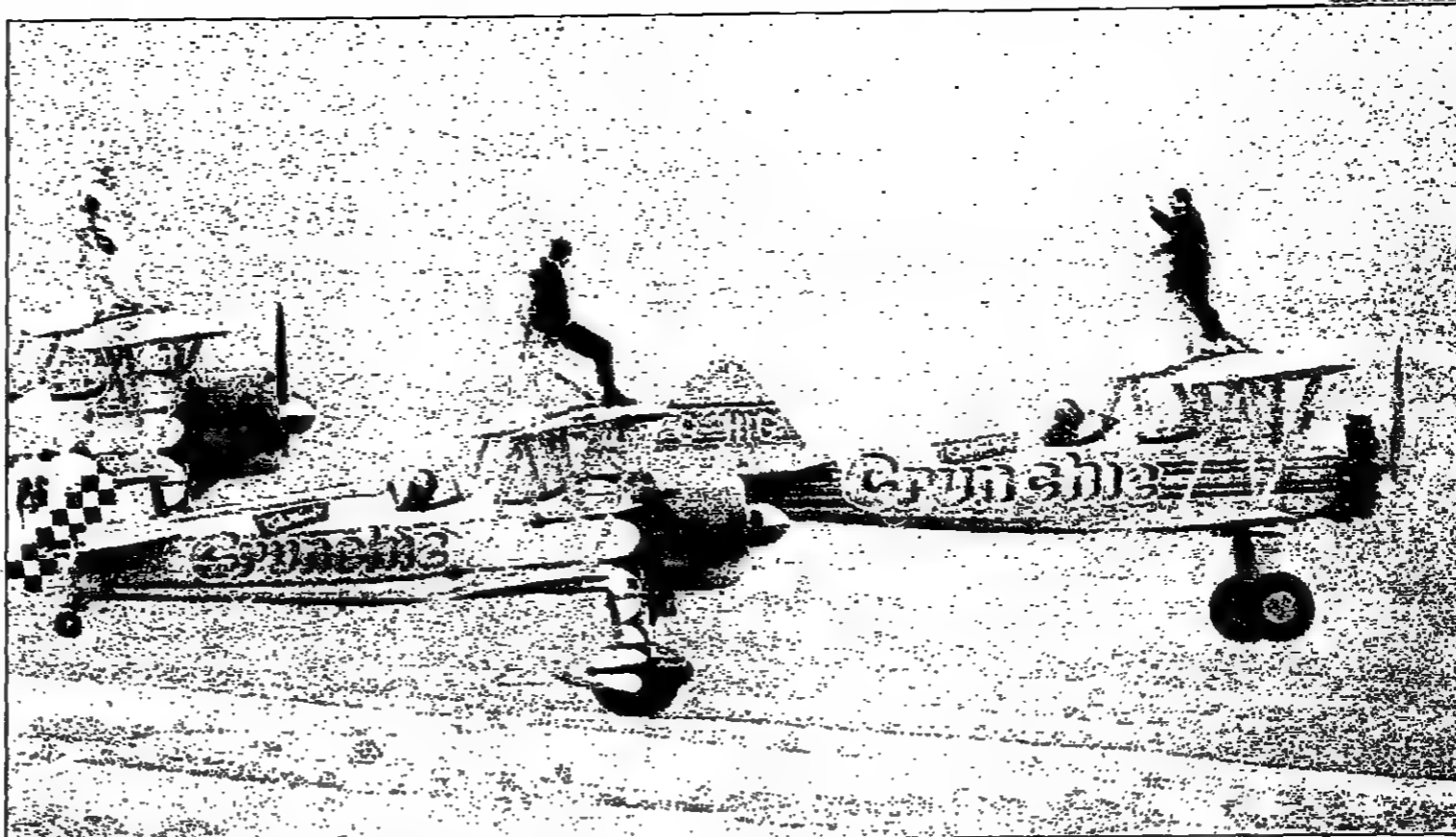
The premier sailing regatta opens at Cowes today with the Britannia lending her regal presence for the last time. Page 11

Warlord shot dead

General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, has died from bullet wounds. Page 12

Decision for Dole

Next Saturday Bob Dole will conclude a humiliating US spectacle when he announces his choice for Vice-President. Page 13



Dave Lawrence and his bride, Jane Harland, from Tamworth in Staffordshire, have their marriage blessed on the wings of two 50-year-old biplanes by the Rev Anthony Kelton, who was strapped to the wings of a third plane. The ceremony took place at 1,500ft

OPINION

Justice denied: An important war crimes trial in Italy has culminated in a judgment so grotesque that Italians have once again risen in outrage. Page 21

Nanny State: To allow people with family responsibilities to keep more of their own income is far healthier for society than to make them dependent on the State's largesse. Page 21

LETTERS

Legalised brothels; birthplaces of science; car pollution; badgers. Page 21

COLUMNS

Simon Barnes: The question never asked is what we want from all this sport. Page 20

Richard Show: When Graham Sutherland painted Somerset Maugham, Maugham came greatly to admire it. Page 20

Paul Barker: Every big city is ringed by towns and villages that once were little rural jewels. Page 20

OBITUARIES

Michel Delort, French Prime Minister; General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, Somali leader. Page 23

BUSINESS

Hush Puppies: Sears is selling the Saxon and Hush Puppies brands and paying £8.75 million to have oil of its shops at the centre of the Faccia collapse taken off its hands. Page 25

Milken: Michael Milken, the disgraced former junk bond trader, is involved in the takeover of a British firm. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 36.2 points to 3770.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 34.7 to 34.1 after a fall from \$1.558 to \$1.5425 and from DM2.294 to DM2.2795. Page 28

SPORT

Olympic Games: Michael Johnson, of the United States, and Marie-Jose Pécé, of France, completed their 400-200 metre doubles in Atlanta. Pages 46 and 48

Cricket: England's selectors will be tempted to jettison wicketkeeper Jack Russell for next week's Headingley Test for which Darren Gough is set to be recalled. Page 47

Golf: Ian Richardson and his son Carl, 19, who hoped to make history by meeting in the English Amateur Championship final, were beaten at Hollinwell. Page 42

ARTS

Fringe flops: The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is not all quality art and culture, as Richard Morrison discovers. Page 17

Thumbs up: Benedict Nightingale on the English Touring Company's Hedda Gabler. Page 17

Historic houses: A comparison between French chateaux and Britain's stately homes. Page 18

CAR 96

Enthusiast-run firms are smarting from copyright purges. Page 42

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Gift of life: Two women's battle for a baby. Page 14
Enchanted circles: Marcus Binney visits Irish follies. Page 24

WEEKEND

How do you pray? Ruth Gledhill reports. Pages 1, 2



Books: Life of James Dean; Ben Elton's Popcorn; Martin Bell on a Gulf War hero. Pages 10, 11

10 15

Bill Pullman, the President in a new film, recalls meeting Bill Clinton. Win: a US holiday. Page 3

VISION



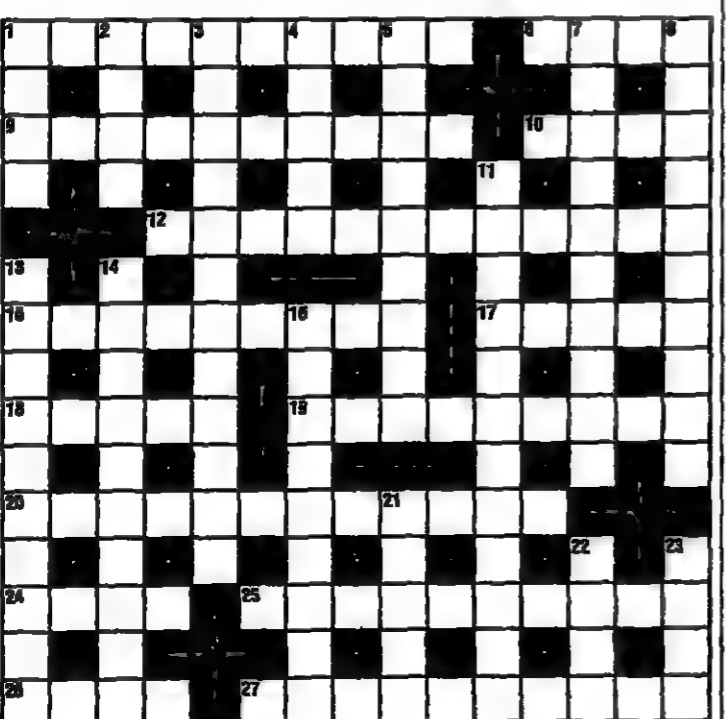
Europe on the road: a new Channel 4 show, Saturday, 7.10pm
New age: BBC2's bolder generation, Sunday, 7pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,237



A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

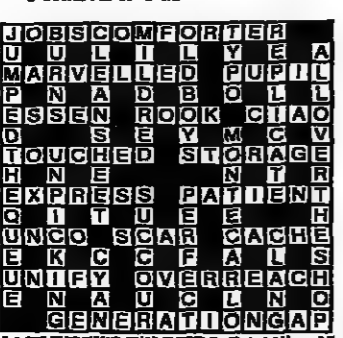
Name/Address



ACROSS

- 1 Casual sort of music (10).
- 2 Spots an 'orse, we hear (4).
- 3 She may be in line for a stage career (6,4).
- 4 Girl Bond's superior heard on the radio (4).
- 5 Abuse of doctor's role (3,4).
- 6 A minute piece accomplished, open to improvement (9).
- 7 Loopy arrangement of mine holding firm (5).
- 8 A crop processed as source of oil (5).
- 9 Not under control and showing no consideration (3,2,4).
- 10 Keeping going and cutting on through (12).
- 11 Not up to a teaching qualification (4).
- 12 Tourist puts out tray for bird to eat (3,7).
- 13 With leader absent, cut up and maybe finished cake (4).
- 14 Selfish congerie contrived to retain tenant in the end (10).

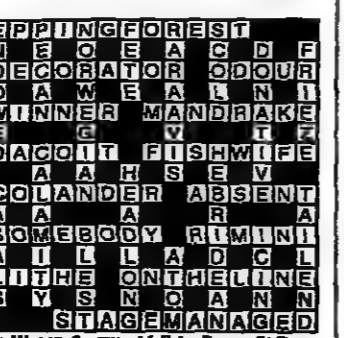
Solution to Puzzle No 20,231



DOWN

- 1 Desire to get quietly off the playing area (4).
- 2 Fill up shoe (4).
- 3 Cheat unlikely to sell a single thing? (6,6).
- 4 Dark piece of bedclothes that's gone missing (5).
- 5 Harmony of people in a lament (9).
- 6 Sort of traveller often seen on channel (10).
- 7 Covered in sweat, perform something, showing precision (10).
- 8 Puts up with oriental party, producing amazement (12).
- 9 A cargo ship transported caskets (10).
- 10 Fully absorbed, having to fix domestic appliance (4,6).
- 11 Show disapproval of new German missile (9).
- 12 Old clown opposed to opening of circus (5).
- 13 Is it made of boxwood? (4).
- 14 A fine boy (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,236



TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0811 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
North Wales	708
South Wales	709
London & SE England	710
SE England	711
SW England	712
Wales & S Wales	713
Wales & N Wales	714
Wales & S Wales	715
Wales & N Wales	716
Wales & S Wales	717
Wales & N Wales	718
Wales & S Wales	719
Wales & N Wales	720
Wales & S Wales	721
Wales & N Wales	722
Wales & S Wales	723
Wales & N Wales	724
Wales & S Wales	725
Wales & N Wales	726
Wales & S Wales	727
Wales & N Wales	728
Wales & S Wales	729
Wales & N Wales	730

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/news information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE England	731
SE England	732
SW England	733
Wales & S Wales	734
Wales & N Wales	735
Wales & S Wales	736
Wales & N Wales	737
Wales & S Wales	738
Wales & N Wales	739
Wales & S Wales	740
Wales & N Wales	741
Wales & S Wales	742
Wales & N Wales	743
Wales & S Wales	744
Wales & N Wales	745
Wales & S Wales	746
Wales & N Wales	747
Wales & S Wales	748
Wales & N Wales	749
Wales & S Wales	750

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Region	Code
Greater London	751
East of England	752
West of England	753
South of England	754
North of England	755
Scotland	756
Wales	757
North Wales	758
South Wales	759
London & SE England	760
SE England	761
SW England	762
Wales & S Wales	763
Wales & N Wales	764
Wales & S Wales	765
Wales & N Wales	766
Wales & S Wales	767
Wales & N Wales	768
Wales & S Wales	769
Wales & N Wales	770

TOMORROW

Region	Code
Greater London	771
East of England	772
West of England	773
South of England	774
North of England	775
Scotland	776
Wales	777
North Wales	778
South Wales	779
London & SE England	780
SE England	781
SW England	782
Wales & S Wales	783
Wales & N Wales	784
Wales & S Wales	785
Wales & N Wales	786
Wales & S Wales	787
Wales & N Wales	788
Wales & S Wales	789
Wales & N Wales	790

HIGH TIDES

Region	Code
Greater London	791
East of England	792
West of England	793
South of England	794
North of England	795
Scotland	796
Wales	797
North Wales	798
South Wales	799
London & SE England	800
SE England	801
SW England	802
Wales & S Wales	803
Wales & N Wales	804
Wales & S Wales	805
Wales & N Wales	806
Wales & S Wales	807
Wales & N Wales	808
Wales & S Wales	809
Wales & N Wales	810

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temperature: 24°C (75°F); lowest day temperature: 12°C (54°F); highest night temperature: 10°C (50°F); lowest night temperature: 4°C (39°F). Forecast: 11th

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be dry with sunny spells developing through the day. The best of the sunshine seems likely in the afternoon. It will be warmer in most places. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have some sunshine at times, with the best of the sunshine in eastern parts of Northern Ireland and southeast Scotland. Most places will be dry. The north and west of Scotland will have outbreaks of rain. Temperatures will be near normal.

London, SE England, E Angles, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N: dry with sunny spells developing. Wind north to northwest, light to moderate. Warmer. Max 24C (75F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: dry with sunny spells. Wind variable, mainly north to northwest. Warmer. Max 22C (72F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, N Ireland: dry with sunny spells developing. Wind west to southwest, moderate. Max 20C (68F).

Border, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Fife: sunny spells developing. Wind west to southwest, moderate. Feeling warmer. Max 19C (66F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll: mainly dry but rather cloudy. Some sunny spells. Wind west to southwest, moderate. Max 19C (66F).

NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: mainly cloudy with rain at times. Drier later. Wind west to southwest, fresh becoming strong. Max 15C (59F).

Outlook: dry on Sunday, unsettled on Monday with showery rain.

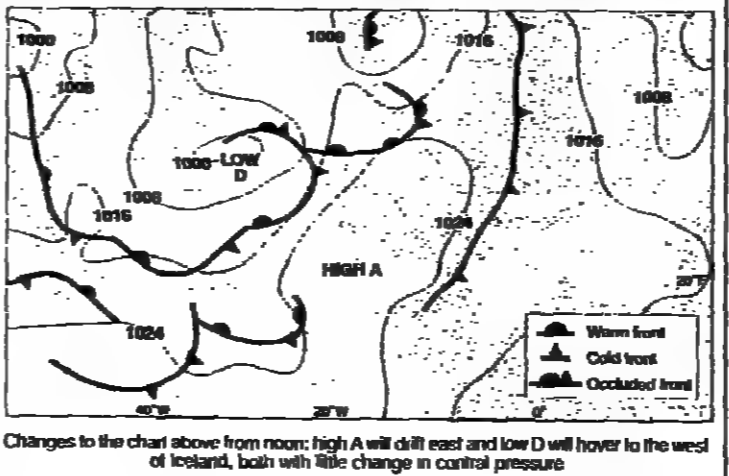
The pollen forecast is discontinued.

AROUND BRITAIN

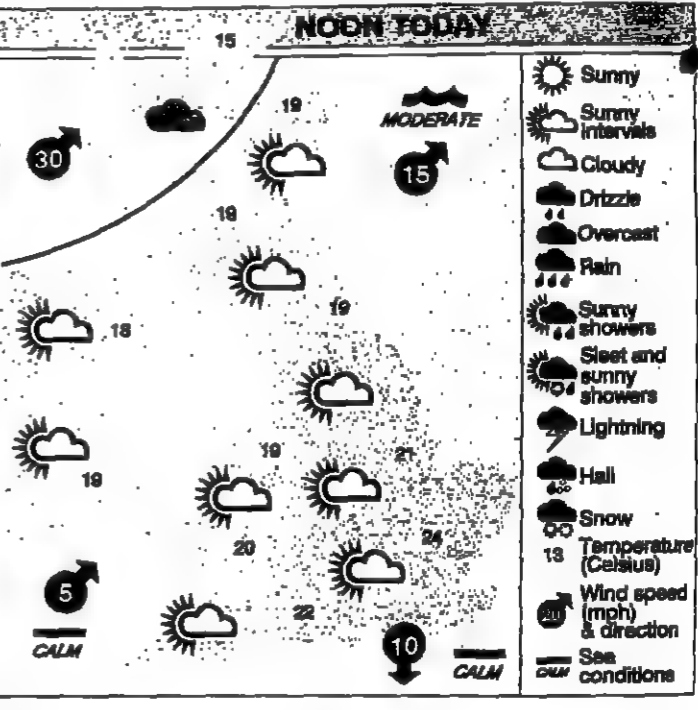
Region	Code
Greater London	811
East of England	812
West of England	813
South of England	814
North of England	815
Scotland	816
Wales	817
North Wales	818
South Wales	819
London & SE England	820
SE England	821
SW England	822
Wales & S Wales	823
Wales & N Wales	824
Wales & S Wales	825
Wales & N Wales	826
Wales & S Wales	827
Wales & N Wales	828
Wales & S Wales	829
Wales & N Wales	830

ABROAD

Region	Code
Greater London	831
East of England	832
West of England	833
South of England	834
North of England	835
Scotland	836
Wales	837
North Wales	838
South Wales	839
London & SE England	840
SE England	841
SW England	842
Wales & S Wales	843
Wales & N Wales	844
Wales & S Wales	845
Wales & N Wales	846
Wales & S Wales	847
Wales & N Wales	848
Wales & S Wales	849
Wales & N Wales	850



Changes to the chart above from noon: high A will drift east and low D will hover to the west of Ireland, both with little change in central pressure.



Region	Code
Greater London	851
East of England	852
West of England	853
South of England	854
North of England	855
Scotland	856
Wales	857
North Wales	858
South Wales	859
London & SE England	860
SE England	861
SW England	862
Wales & S Wales	863
Wales & N Wales	864
Wales & S Wales	865
Wales & N Wales	866
Wales & S Wales	867
Wales & N Wales	868
Wales & S Wales	869
Wales & N Wales	870

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135A

BOOKS



James Dean: the rebel without a past

Page 11

PLUS: King Rat and the Gulf War, page 11

OFFERS

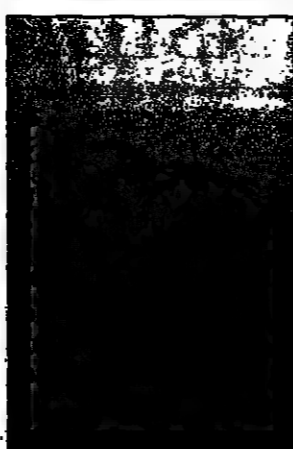


Starting today: £30,000 holiday competition

Page 21

PLUS: Dine in splendour at the Ritz, page 4

TRAVEL



Sandy Gall targets Botswana's new game reserves

Page 17

PLUS: Return of the war evacuees, page 19

FOOD



Chocolates and the secrets of maternity wards

Page 3

PLUS: Heiney unpeels fruits of the sea, page 3

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 3 1996



Prayer is enjoying a boom.

Ruth Gledhill reports on modern ways of seeking guidance in a secular age

Sir Ludovic Kennedy, an atheist so devoutly not a theist that his lack of belief is almost a matter of faith, is adamant that he never prays. Unbelieving, I challenged him: "What, not even when you can't find a parking space on a hot day?" "Good heavens... Good Lord, no," he replied.

At least I could be sure when interviewing Sir Ludovic on the subject of prayer that he would not ask me to pray with him over the telephone before we began. In six years as *The Times* religion correspondent, this has happened to me a handful of times, invariably when speaking to an evangelical Christian. These prayers go something like this, expanded over a minute or two: "Good Lord, we ask for your divine guidance and blessing on this interview. We pray that you will guide and bless Ruth as she writes her article, and help her to express your truth according to your divine will."

To my faint embarrassment, I usually go along with it to get the interview. My own prayer life might be fairly intense, but it is private; not something I like to do on the phone.

It is not surprising that I, a clergyman's daughter, pray regularly — even if it is just a silent plea for the rain to stop. But could it be true, in an increasingly secular society, that more people resort to prayer than is widely believed?

Church membership across the main denominations continues to "decline" (as in the Methodist Church) or "bottom out" (as in the Church of England). But while organised religion might be suffering, there are indications of a resurgence in spirituality in what many believe to be a rebellion against the materialism of the 1980s.

Retreat houses, such as the one at Aylesford Priory in Kent, where people go for prayer and meditation, are booming, with bookings at record level. The National Retreat Association, which has information on more than 200 Christian retreat houses and their programmes, last year sold 12,000 copies of its journal, *Vision*, listing these details.

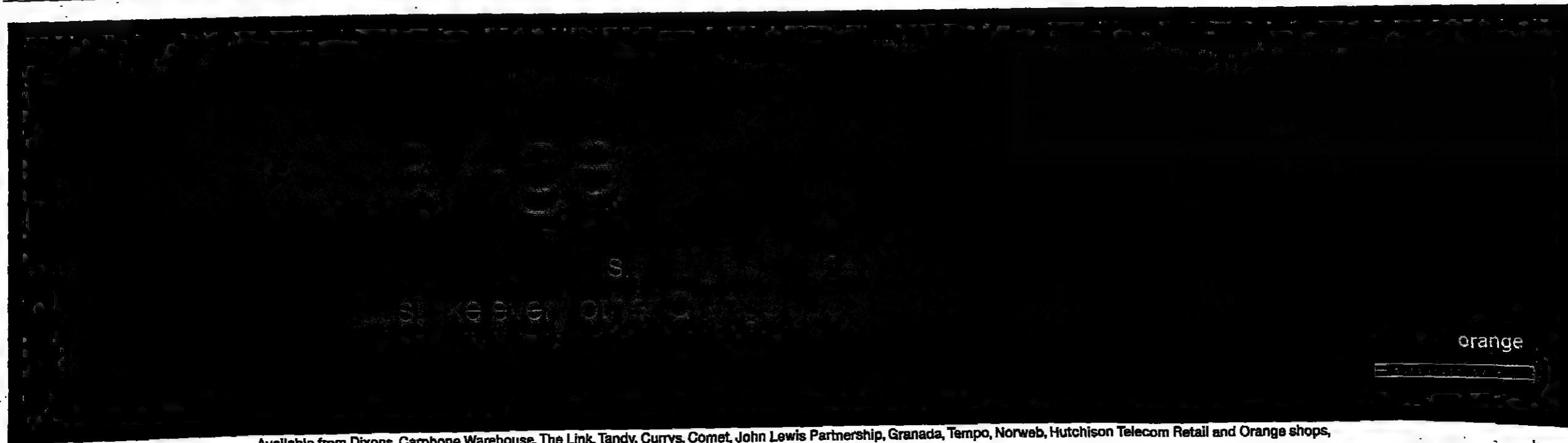
Gillian Paterson, the religion publisher of Cassell, says: "Spirituality is where it's at, in terms of religious publishing. Books on prayer and meditation are the thing at the moment, particularly in America and here. It is where the market is." As a result, Cassell, in co-operation with *The Times*, is inviting readers to submit prayers, for publication in *The Times Book of Prayers*.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who came from a non-churchgoing background, believes that most people know instinctively what it is to pray: "A lot of people pray in their own way and do not need church buildings or religious artefacts to do it. But all these help."

Dr Carey rises early every day to pray, but it was a particular relief to hear the head of the

Continued on page 2, col 1

FOOD 3 GARDENING 45 PROPERTY 7 PETS 8 BOOKS 101 GOING OUT 1213 SHOPPING 15 TRAVEL 17-21 GAMES 23



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GARDENING

Gardens to visit: many summer annuals, set against flowering shrubs, are now at their best



The great parterre garden at Drummond Castle spreads out like a richly decorated tapestry, with paths, box-edged beds, clipped yew, purple acer and white marble statues

Roll up for the colour show

Broughton Castle, Broughton, near Banbury, Oxfordshire (01295 262624).

Two and a half miles west of Banbury on the B4035. Open May 19-Sept 11, Wed, Sun and Bank Hol Mon (Thur in Aug), 2-5pm. £3.50, children £2.

The moated castle in deep rural countryside presents an unforgettable first view, the honey-coloured stone reflected in the surrounding water as it has been for more than five centuries. Once across the moat and within the protected area of what is more a minor house than a castle, the garden presents itself in perfect harmony to the architecture.

The main features are two superbly planted borders, with sensitive arrangement of colour, for which Lanning Roper gave assistance in 1969: blue, grey, yellow and white in one; red, mauve and deeper blue in the other. The ladies' garden is an enjoyable box-edged fleur-de-lis and best admired from the upstairs windows. One of Broughton's greatest rewards is that almost every time

you look up from admiring a plant you enjoy a view out across the surrounding parkland.

Gunby Hall, Gunby, near Spilsby, Lincolnshire (1909 486411).

Two and a half miles northwest of Burgh-le-Marsh, south of the A158. Open April-Sept, Wed and Thur, 2-6pm (last admission 5.30pm) £1.80, children 90p.

Certain gardens suggest themselves for a visit at different times of the year and Gunby is a late-summer candidate, with people passing on their way to holiday at the seaside. Its old walled enclosures are burgeoned with flowers and ripening fruit.

There is delightful contrast in mood between the stark, redbrick 1700 house, built by Sir William Massingberd that looks out over lawn to parkland and two walled gardens, which present a heady mixture of fruit, flowers and vegetables and adorned by pergolas, a dovecot and a gazebo.

Annuals in some borders are outstanding, and the apple-lined paths are a treat. A canal lined with columnar junipers is supposedly the scene of a grim family death, but no such hint of gloom can dispel the atmosphere of heady enjoyment that the kitchen gardens provide.



Gunby Hall's summerhouse

Drummond Castle, Methil, near Crail, Perthshire (01764 681251).

Two miles south of Crail on A822. Open daily May-Oct, 2-6pm. £3, children £1.50.

Drummond is one of Scotland's most impressive and extraordinary gardens, and tomorrow it is open in aid of Scotland's Garden Scheme. Below the ancient castle and the adjacent house, both perched on a rocky

eminence, the great parterre garden is spread out like a richly decorated tapestry.

The garden was created in 1630 by John Drummond, and its dramatic formality was revived between 1818 and 1860 by Lewis Kennedy, the head gardener. The primary pattern is the St Andrews cross, marked by paths, but the whole is a pattern of box-edged beds, clipped yew, purple acer and Portuguese laurel of enormous complexity. White marble statues provide dazzling ornamentation, both in the parterre and up the flights of steps, and the overall style is reminiscent of Italian, French and Dutch gardens adapted to British taste.

As if to emphasise this, the garden's most striking ornament is the wonderful multifaceted sundial made by Charles I's master mason.

Kettle Hill, Blakeney, Norfolk (01263 741147).

On the Langham road, out of Blakeney, signposted on all main roads. Open tomorrow, 2-5.30pm. £1.50, children free.

At Kettle Hill, Richard and Frances Wynch have shown during the last five years what can be done when making a "second" garden. For many years they lived at Swannington, near Norwich, where they developed

a fine country house garden and established the Romantic Garden Nursery. They wanted their move to Kettle Hill to mark a change, both in location and garden style - which it emphatically did.

Perched on a hill with breathtaking views to the Norfolk coast and the majestic landmark of Morston church tower, the garden is adventurous in both design and planting. An addition to the house built in the style of a classical orangery overlooks a knot garden in low box hedging, gravel and lavender. Terraces and steps with intricate patterning lead up to a sweep of lawn and views to woodland, where lilies thrive in the shade and the paths lead to a secret rose garden.

But it is the bold planting of summer perennials and foliage plants in the long border to one side of the lawn, and in the new walled garden behind that is most evident. In the wall garden, the combination of *Oenothera* 'Pink Petaloo' growing through one of the alstromeria Princess lilies with shell-pink flowers, surrounded by billowing gypsophila 'Rosy Vell', is a good example of the combinations of colour and form that abound to show any visitor what can be achieved in the space of just a few years.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q A friend has moved into a flat where the garden has suffered from a heavy dose of weedkiller drift, possibly from a railway track. Is there a cure? B. Rust, Sittingbourne, Kent.

A This depends on what chemical was used. Glyphosate is one of the better chemicals in terms of its eco-friendliness, but a little goes a long way when it comes to killing plants, especially soft herbaceous ones. Selective weedkillers - nastier chemicals - are more easily resisted by plants. The leaves may curl and some distortion may occur, but many plants eventually shrug this off and grow normally in the following year. So the answer for your friend is to be patient and see what survives. If she can establish a case against the railway people, she should make a noise.

grey ones underneath. Small trees can be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture. Otherwise, make sure you collect and burn as many of the leaves as possible. Leaf blight also affects the fruits, but not to the extent of making them all drop off at embryo stage. This was probably because of the cold or drought earlier in the year. Walnuts carry male and female flowers on the same tree so, once a tree has settled down to regular flower production, pollination, which is by wind, should be no problem.

Q How do I deal with a rampant wisteria? Mine is 30 years old and grows on a southeast-facing wall. It is never fed but produces such big shoots that, if left to the normal twice-yearly pruning, it would take over the place. Would it be better to pull off all the new growth? Mrs J. Thompson, Diss, Norfolk.

A Fed or not, your wisteria obviously has access to plenty of food and water. So rather than provoking it into yet more rampant shoots by hard pruning, cut less for a year or two. Stick to the twice-yearly pruning only, in July and December, and encourage it to slow down a little by ripening some wood. Has it had some hard pruning in the last few years, to incite it to riot?

Q A German friend gave me two walnut seedlings from her garden 13 years ago. Last year the first walnut was produced. This year there were many embryo walnuts but they all dropped off. The leaves have peculiar indentations, too. What should I do? J. Webb, Alfriston, East Sussex.

A Your trees are infected with walnut leaf blotch, *Gnomonia leptostyla*, producing yellow blotches on the surface and

Q My neighbour has a 25-year-old monkey puzzle tree that has reached 24ft growing in nothing more than clay with flints. Is it likely to grow any taller? This year it carried many cones and shed a lot of yellow dust - would this have been pollen? The tree is 14ft from the back wall of my house. Is it likely to do harm? It does not seem to affect any plants between itself and my house. J.A. Smith, Chatham, Kent.

A Monkey puzzles do less well in thin dry soils and where humidity is low. This one is growing at a good speed and seems happy enough to bear plenty of cones. This year has been good for cones after last year's hot summer, and, yes, the dust will have been pollen. The tree will get bigger, probably much taller than the house, but these are wind-firm trees and unlikely to fall on the house. There may, however, be subsidence problems on your clay soil. More to the point, you will soon have a heavily shaded house. Much as I love monkey puzzles, particularly in small gardens, it would be better for you if the tree was removed in the next few years. Why not offer to buy your neighbour a new one. 6ft tall, for £150? It might be money well spent.

Q Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9DT. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

A SPECIAL TIMES READER PROMOTION

A musical evening with supper at the Ritz for £95



The Times, in association with the Ritz in London, offers readers the opportunity to enjoy a superb musical evening and supper in one of the most glamorous dining rooms in the world for £95 inclusive.

The occasion, limited to 150 guests, is part of the Ritz's 90th birthday celebrations on Sunday, September 22.

The evening will begin at 6pm with a Pol Roger champagne reception. This will be followed at 6.45 by a special concert by cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and his pianist John Lenehan.

They will play romantic music with compositions by Bach, Saint-Saëns, Pauré and Rachmaninov. Classically-trained chef David Nicholls

will serve a delicious two-course supper - featuring the season's freshest ingredients, followed by petits fours and coffee.

Each guest will receive a gift to celebrate the Ritz 90th Birthday from Phillips Classics, a CD of the Julian Lloyd Webber Collection.

For reservations please contact Cariona Robertson at the Ritz Hotel by telephone on 0171-493 8181 or by fax 0171-408 4489.



The ties that can cure - or kill

Tying in plants the wrong way can be fatal, says Stephen Anderton

Picture a 20ft spire of the cypress-like incense cedar *Calocedrus decurrens*. Ten years ago a couple saw that their had lost its original single leader, and that the several new leaders were in danger of breaking off; the whole tree could split apart. So a circle of nylon rope was knotted loosely around each leading trunk and then passed on to the next leader, until they were all joined together in a self-supporting chain gang.

And then they moved house. New people came who had no idea of the trouble brewing up in their fine, emerald-green conifer. One windy day a branch broke in the tree, half way up, and hung there by a snag. When they got the saw out to cut away the torn branch it was immediately apparent what had happened. Ten years down the line those loose circles of nylon cord had strangled the growing trunks to the point at which, even before dying of constriction, they had ceased to be capable of supporting their own weight. Every trunk was ruined by the rope, and the whole of the top half of the tree had to be cut off. The tree has sprouted and will grow again. But if it was weak after the first loss of leader, a second set will be even less strong. If only the ties had been mentioned to the new owners, and cut away in time, all might now be well.



The strangled stem of a dead plant, the result of tying in too tightly during early growth

never to use imperishable cord or wire where it can be forgotten, unless you really have to. If wire has to be used, run it through a length of hosepipe, where it touches bark, so that it will not bite into the tree.

Even when tying up roses it is kinder, visually and physically, to use natural strings, such as willow. Whether undyed, green or tarred, natural string is less conspicuous than any of the poppypropylene garden twines, which seem to come inevitably in luminous day-glo greens. Best of all, natural fibres rot before they can do damage to expanding stems.

Occasionally it may be prudent to use imperishable twine on the main trunk of a climbing rose on the wall of a house, to avoid the day when it might tear free and come down on plants below. But apart from such exceptional occasions, it is better to use perishable string.

Preferences vary about methods for tying in roses to walls or trellis. Most people like to make a figure of eight around the stem and the section of trellis, so there is plenty of slack for an expanding stem to take up. Also, it affords a slight buffer between soft stem and hard trellis.

Tying to wall nails is a slower business. You can tie the middle of a length of string around the nail with a reef knot ("left over right and under", leaving two long ends to tie around the plant. But I find this much too fiddly. I prefer to use a clove hitch knot, looped on to the nail and pulled tight. It still leaves two long ends to pull in the plant, but it is ten times faster than using a reef knot, and so much easier to do when you are tying behind other foliage and can't see what you are doing.

For ease of working up a ladder, put the ball of string in

a plastic carrier bag and loop it over the ladder. Pull out a yard or so at a time, and cut it off to leave a tail dangling out of the bag, so that you can reach it with one hand. Secateurs can tuck in a back pocket, or a holster attached to the belt for Gucci gardeners. Some people like to string a bucket to the ladder, to hold both string and secateurs when both hands are needed elsewhere.

A ball of string should be pulled out from the centre and its wrappings left intact if you want to get to the end of the roll without producing some final tangle. Keeping it in an old plastic plant pot also makes it easier to pull it out right to the end.

Where speed of tying roses is paramount, I have seen tape and staple guns used to tie to canes or narrower supports. But it looks as fast and careless as it is. Better to leave stapling for temporary, commercial purposes, such as fixing to a cane in a pot before sale. If plastic can be avoided in a garden, it should. Stapling in a garden is like putting MFI in a fine chateau.

Some years ago a rhus died in me after six or seven years. It had been planted in the driest of soils and had not been a success. But what surprised me was that, on digging up the root, the elasticated net used to hold the rootball together was still intact, and its knotted corners, looped in pairs around the trunk, were biting deep into the wood. Once set in the planting hole, the corners of the net should have been untied and spread out around the plant. Someone could not be bothered, and so a mature plant died.

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Ensure that runner beans have plenty of water; give liquid feed with a tomato fertiliser and pick regularly to keep them cropping. If you are going away on holiday, arrange for someone else to pick and use them.

■ Keep down wear and tear on lawns browned by drought. Withhold fertilisers and water regularly to keep them green.

■ Give dahlias secure stakes tall enough to take them through to the end of the season, and tie them loosely.

■ Cut areas of wildflower and meadow grass this month, taking off all the clippings, to reduce fertility and encourage flowering. Be sure first that the plants you wish to

Garden workrooms, At Your Service page 12

GARDENING

5

From poor earth to the riches of the Italianate

It has taken 20 years to transform an infertile patch into a magnificent garden which is open to the public. Patricia Morison reports

Among gardening cognoscenti, the name Cootes is associated with a jewel of an Italian garden in an Oxford suburb; a garden which is a triumph over horrible soil. Anyone who has the same problem should take the example of Pam and Nick Cootes to heart.

Twenty-two years ago, the Cootes moved from north Oxford to the similarly donish suburb of Old Headington. But if the neighbours left nothing to be desired, the garden was a different story. A secluded half-acre screened by tall trees, it now spreads pleasantly around the house — vintage 1930s, Spanish-style with white walls, wrought iron, and green pantries.

The Cootes were used to north Oxford's heavy soil, so it was a shock to find that in Headington the soil was the horticultural equivalent of gruel: thin and infertile. Many gardeners would have battled for the rest of their days to achieve a respectable herbaceous border, fruit trees, roses and a decent lawn. On sight, the Cootes abandoned their dreams of creating a beautiful English garden.

For a year, they read and thought and planned, before embarking on a project which would take years to mature.

The result is a fascinating garden, rationally and interestingly planned to seem much larger, with its paths and hedges, its shady recesses of densely planted shrubs and specimen trees, which include such unusual species as Hungarian oak, Italian pine, and the incense cedar. Idiosyncratic, even whimsical, there is a corner for plant freaks and a



Pam and Nick Cootes in their garden

non-functional fountain of grinning dolphins, this is an exceptionally intricate creation. Incredible effort must have been involved in producing the hundreds of annuals, tender perennials and exotic shrubs, brought out from the greenhouse every June and artfully arranged in pots and urns to lap the front of the house and spill excitingly along the drive.

The Italian influence is strong, imbued in Mr Cootes by years of study in Rome. His wife is equally Italophile. Yet this is not a garden of grandiloquent pastiche, but one where Renaissance principles of design have been muddled over and adapted for a rather modest setting.



The Sicilian herb garden, surrounded by *Acer platanoides* 'Drummondii', features box hedging, a well-head and wall "window" made of Spanish tiles

6 The soil was thin as gruel... and on sight the Cootes abandoned dreams of creating a beautiful garden?

Take the wide parterre beside the terrace, where at this season the Cootes can sit framed by pots of 12ft-tall dahlias. At a time when there is an epidemic of fussy unconvincing parterres, this one is an object lesson, framed by a 4ft yew hedge enclosing four simple, perfectly proportioned box-edged beds, planted with predominantly grey-leaved plants which flower in blocks of single colour.

This spring, it was lilac, alliums and narcissi, later *Hebe alba*, sedums and 'Hidcot' lavender.

Admiring the garden's botanical profusion it is easy to forget the infertile ground beneath. The Cootes minister to it

tirelessly. They feed yearly with mushroom compost, safe enough on their neutral soil but not a good idea if, like mine, your soil is very alkaline. They mulch 3in deep in spring with leaf mould and spot feed copiously with Chempak.

However, the key to success is discovering plants which perform on poor, fast-draining soil, and even in shade or semi-shade. Evergreen shrubs, small and large, offer many possibilities and, as Mrs Cootes points out, are an escape from the typically British winter wasteland. A favourite is *Mahonia aquifolia*, which colours prettily in the winter and makes an attractive low edging to a path. *Sarcococca* 'Christmas Box' is another favourite, grown along the drive under the tunnel of laburnums where it fills the February air with the scent of honey.

That thorny brute *poncirus* does well under there, too, laden with white blossom in May. Another well armed evergreen is *Berberis calliantha*, which the Cootes have as a low hedge under a shady bow-window. It is pretty enough to make even a convinced berberis-hater like me think twice, and its coarse teeth might give a burglar pause for thought.

Hollies are a neglected tribe, beautiful

even when young and, for the most part, splendidly tolerant of short commons. The Cootes grow many species, from the neat hummock of uncommon *Ilex cornuta* 'Roulette' to the weirdly fleshy *I. crassifolia*. Particularly pretty is *I. hascombensis*, a slender spire with miniature, twisted leaves. Variegated hollies are a brilliant choice for lifting gloomy corners. The Cootes have the uncommon and beautiful little *I. myrtifolia aurea*, as well as the strapping 'Silver Milkboy', which is in every garden centre.

The overly despised laurels are another good bet. *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Zabeliana' stretches wide to make a handsome, glossy presence underneath big trees. Its relative *P. camellifolia* has thick leaves and is a touch bizzare.

A particularly clever idea of the Cootes is to grow that fine form of laurel *P. laurocerasus* 'Otto Luyken', in a wide bed hard up against the towering boundary trees. Mr Cootes hard prunes to keep it at 3ft 6in, cutting a scalloped edge where the laurels meet the path. In early summer they fill each gap with a large terracotta pot of

white agapanthus, 12 in all, and smart as new paint against the glossy laurel.

A winner in dry shade is the lacy-leaved elder *Sambucus nigra laciniata*. Another jaw-breaker is *Acanthopanax sieboldianus* 'Variegatus', a graceful shrub with sparse, silver-edged leaves, quietly handsome in a dark corner.

At low level, the Cootes use far choicer things than butcher's broom and stinking iris. For trachystemon, sun or shade is all the same. It is a rampaging carpeter with big heart-shaped leaves and glistening, haired, purple flowers. *Tiarella*, or Foam Flower, is said to need rich, damp woodland.

Do not believe it; this pretty thing does fine in dry shade. So does *Pachyphragma macrophyllum*, which has glistening white spires of blooms in April. I cannot wait to try it.

● The Cootes' garden at 40 Osier Road, Headington, Oxford OX3 9BJ, is open for the National Garden Scheme on Aug 11, and by appointment for gardening clubs. For nurseries stocking the plants mentioned above, consult the Royal Horticultural Society's The Plant Finder (Moorland Publishing, Moor Farm Road West, Ashburn, Derbyshire, DE6 1HD. £12.99; ISBN 0 851 2161-6-X, £12.99).

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Feather Report

The punkish rock lovers

BIRDS ARE gathering along the rocky shores of the west coast of Scotland. There are always hooded crows there, stalking about looking for a dead crab or a half-eaten bread roll. But curlews have come down from the mountainsides to join them, feeding with their long, curved beaks at the end of a sandspit or beating across the water with a wild, melodious cry.

Resting among the rocks, or floating just out in the waves, you can often see in August a small flock of dark-looking ducks. They are quite shy, and as you get near they wing away in a small skein over the sea, now showing a white bar on their wings.

These are red-breasted mergansers, which nested earlier this year in a tunnel in the brambles or under overhanging heather on the shores of the mountain lochs and sea inlets. Just now they all look so dark because they have gone into their "eclipse" plumage while they moult.

In a couple of months, though, the drakes will be looking quite spectacular again. They will have green heads, a white collar, and a broad chestnut band across their breast.

Most noticeable of all, they will have a stiff little crest sticking out from the back of the head, quite punkish — and the females, though they will

remain in duller plumage, will have the same adornment. The other remarkable feature about them is their beaks. They belong to a family of diving ducks called "sawbills", which also includes the goosander and snipe.

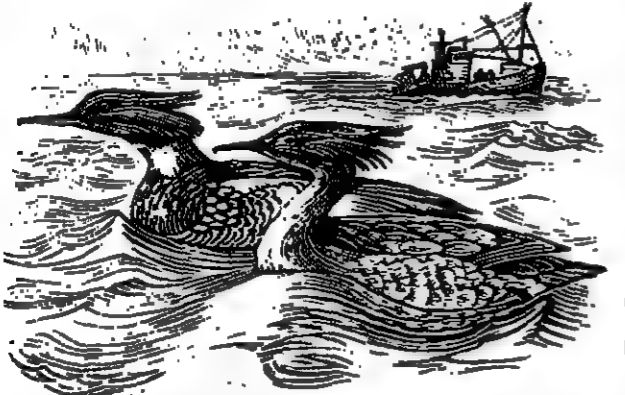
Their beaks (which are bright red) have a line of backward-leaning teeth along the inner edges, and they use these to hold the fish that they catch as they swim around under water. They like young salmon — and they are not popular with fish farmers. They are shot, but there is no real evidence that they do any harm to fish stocks.

Bobbing about on a rough sea, or swimming with their heads half-under looking for fish, they are a delightful sight. At present, it has been calculated, there are about 3,000 breeding pairs in Scotland and a few more in England and Wales — and I am glad to say that they seem to be holding their own.

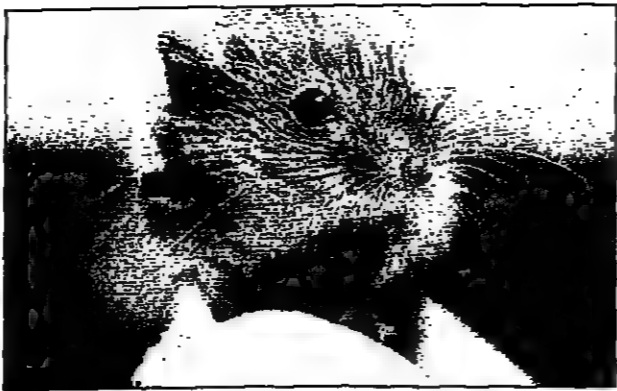
DERWENT MAY

What's about birds? — Watch for large numbers of black-headed gulls and starlings overhead catching recently hatched flying ants. Twickers — American widgones at Cley, Norfolk; Spanish sparrow at Watlington, Oxford; four white-rumped sandpipers at Breydon Water, Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 70222. Calls cost 40p a minute plus 50p at all other times.

PETER BROWN



Red-breasted mergansers have a taste for young salmon



Ballroom to let for high life

Keep your eyes peeled this summer and you may see harvest mice living in tennis balls, says Jack Crossley

Pet lovers have been invited to take part in a survey which will introduce them to the harvest mouse — an irresistible creature with the audacity to be pugnacious while not being much longer than the joint of a human finger.

They are being asked to look for these tiny rodents living inside tennis balls placed in fields by scientists. A hole has been cut into each ball to provide a haven for this smallest of British rodents. The hole has a circumference of 15mm — smaller than a 5p piece — and is too small to let any other rodents in. It is ideal for the harvest mouse, which weighs about 6g, but is too small for the wood mouse, which weighs about 19g. By comparison, a house mouse weighs 13g.

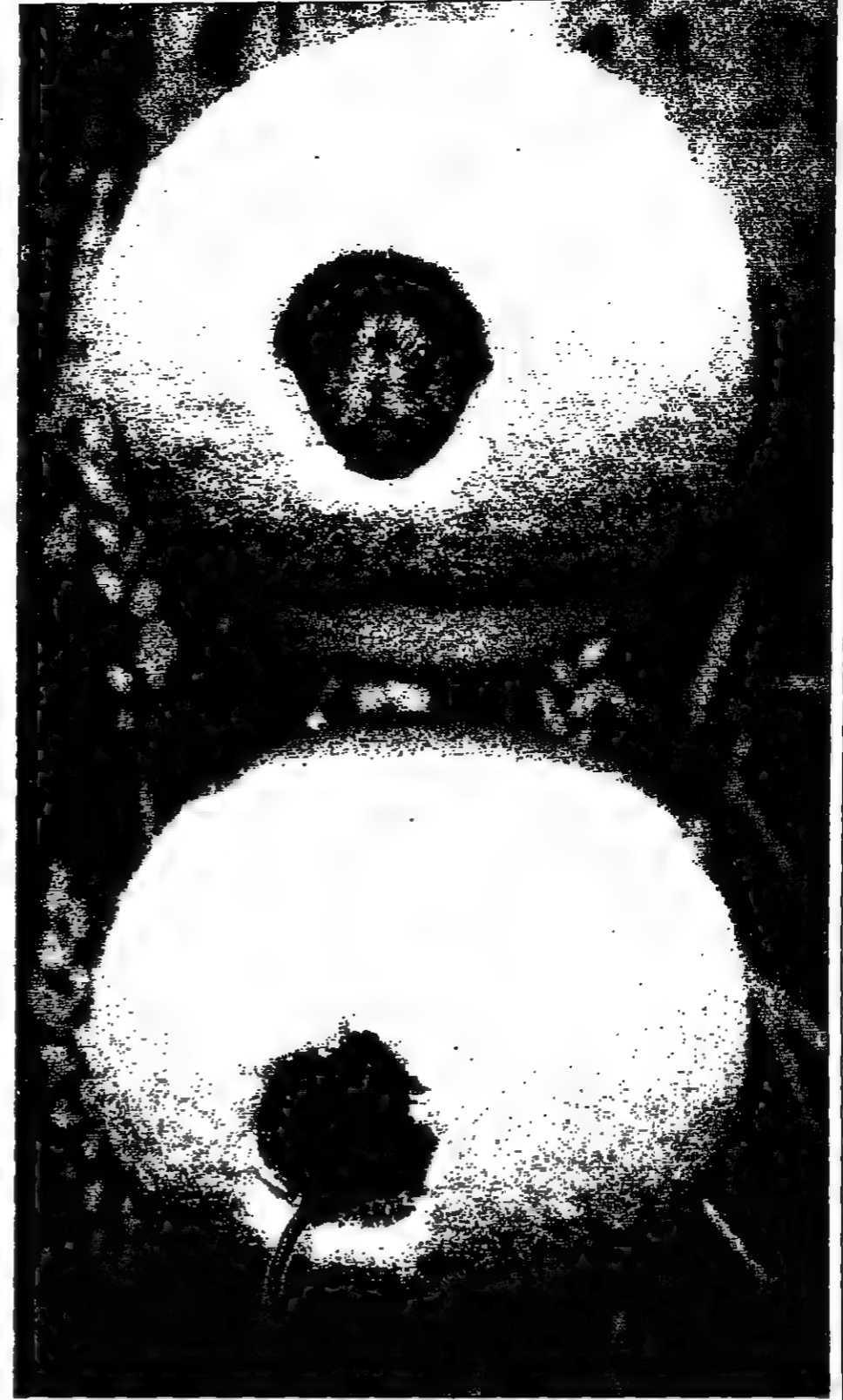
The reason behind the scientific survey is not that the harvest mouse is in any particular danger of becoming extinct, although it is not as abundant as it used to be. In

fact, it is surviving despite industrialised farming techniques. It's just that we need more information about how it is getting on.

Only around 0.5 per cent of biological records held in the UK are on mammals, compared with 65 per cent for birds. But this is set to change. "We can only protect British mammals effectively if we know where they are," says Dr Pat Morris, chairman of the Mammal Society.

Spotting harvest mice has never been easier. Slazenger has provided 11,000 tennis balls and the Mammal Society has put them on the end of bamboo poles in strategic fields around the country. There is already plenty of evidence that the mice find them des res.

These tiny mice are charming but can you keep them as pets? It used to be popular, but those who care for them try to discourage the idea. Derek Gow, of the New Forest Nature Quest near Lyndhurst,



Harvest mice at home in their tennis balls and, above left, one of the tiny creatures

Hampshire, which has a popular harvest mice colony, says: "As long as people get the right advice, read the literature, are doing and provide the correct facilities, harvest mice can be fascinating pets."

But these little rodents are for looking at — not for handling. Remember the caresses that Lennie gives lovingly, but fatally, to his pet in Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. They are best kept in small colonies behind glass. "You need a cabinet about 4ft high by 2ft deep," Mr Gow says. "They're pugnacious, and bolshie. Once you have more than six they will fight." Nature Quest has 14 breeding harvest mice on display in an area which looks like a sea of corn stalks at the edge of a meadow with a big mural behind it. The enclosure is 15ft deep by 8ft wide surrounded by a 4ft high fence and designed to look like a normal agricultural fence.

Mr Gow says: "Through the summer you can easily have four or five litters — with each pair producing four or five youngsters. You could end up with 140 animals — that's in an ideal world with every one

MICE FACTS

■ In summer, harvest mice live in tall grass and can be found on sand dunes, salt marshes, hedgerows, cereal fields, marshland and road and motorway verges.

■ The size of the nest will vary from golf ball to cricket ball size. Nests are most easily found from early autumn to late spring.

■ The maximum lifespan is thought to be around 18 months, but many do not survive beyond six months.

■ It's tough being this small — predators finding harvest mice a tasty morsel include owls, foxes, rats, hawks, pheasants, blackbirds and toads.

surviving. To cope with this we keep an off-display breeding facility so, should anything happen to the display, we hold all our surplus mice there. We also get harvest mice specialists who approach us for surplus stock.

The Quest is based entirely

on British wildlife. There is underground viewing of water voles in their runs, rink swimming areas and large natural ponds with specimens of British fish.

Harvest mice are popular because they are very active, especially when it is sunny and warm and because people are astonished by how small they are. "They are absolutely minute," said Mr Gow. "But although they are the smallest rodent they are not our smallest mammal. Pygmy shrews are even smaller." They live on millet, grass seeds, grain heads — largely a vegetarian diet but they also take very small insects.

Perhaps the best way of having your own harvest mice colony is to provide your own tennis ball sanctuary — especially if your garden backs on to farmland or grassland.

● To take part in the Harvest Mouse Survey, contact the Mammal Society at Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG (0171-481-4355).

● Nature Quest, Longdown, Ashurst, near Southampton, SO40 4UH (01703 322488).

● Nature Quest is open during summer from 10am to 5pm, seven days a week. Entrance £4.50 adults, £3.25 children.

A Vet Writes...

How to keep the puppy fat away

It is said that 40 per cent of dogs are overweight — and a survey of pet owners might produce similar figures for the same reasons: too much food and not enough activity.

Person or pooch, it is easier to gain weight than lose it, so slimming should begin as soon as an extra pound appears. But in the real world, Fido is several pounds overweight before anyone thinks of a diet. Overweight dogs don't enjoy life as much as lean ones, and faties may die earlier. Coronary heart disease is not the killer that it is in human beings, but fatty livers and overworked kidneys wear out more quickly.

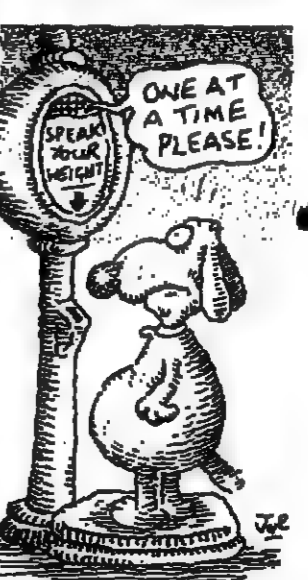
Making sure a dog enjoys the second half of his life is the best reason for keeping him slim. Legs carrying extra weight develop pains in the joints. Arthritic changes occur, and walking becomes an effort. The dog stays at home, has another biscuit, which turns into more fat.

So where do you start? The best place is the bathroom scales. Weigh him. If he won't sit on the scales, a little dog can be put in a basket or box. Otherwise, weigh yourself, pick up the dog, see what you weigh together, and do a subtraction. Your vet might help with his surgery scales.

Next, cut down on his food. Start with three-quarters of a normal bowl, and stop giving him tiddlers. The diet has to fill the dog up, so bulk is important. Low-calorie, high-fibre canned foods are available, but you can make a DIY diet by adding bran, boiled cabbage or carrot to his meals. Dogs get nothing out of these foods except a full stomach. With cunning it's possible to persuade a dog that raw carrot or apple is a titbit.

Regular weight checks tell you what's happening. If he's not losing weight, give him less to eat — or find out who in the family is cheating. The effort will be worthwhile.

JAMES ALLCOCK



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Return of the one that got away

■ **STAND BY, STAND BY**
By Chris Ryan
Century, £15.99
ISBN 0 7126 7766 6

I FEEL with glee upon this gritty thriller. The cover of *Stand By, Stand By* — a grimy man in combat-gear in front of huge flames — is much the same as that of Chris Ryan's SAS memoir, *The One That Got Away*. Here was the stuff that would surely inspire me to abseil on a whim and to flash a .356 HK53 at any traffic warden who so much as glances at my registration number.

That is but a small part of the weaponry available to the narrator, Gordie Sharp, veteran of an escape from torture in Iraq during the Gulf War. Now back in the countryside with wife and son, he is so beset by nightmares that they agree to separate for a while. She returns to her parents in Belfast and is duly blown up, the victim of an IRA bomb. Posted there, Sharp is dangerously out of kilter with reality.



How macho is that squaddie in the window?

mental strategy as he pursues a one-man revenge mission against the perpetrator, whose drug-dealing connections involve Sharp in an expedition to Colombia.

Never quite swamped by the technology, it is a compelling stuff, whether at the wheel in chases down those blasted streets or parachuting above deepest jungle, but you have to take on trust the obligatory romance which provides a deft twist to this shabbily-printed tale. All these wall-busting events never quite succeed, however, in tempting you to follow suit — that remains the province of those masterly first-person narratives, *The Thirty-Nine Steps* and *Rogue Male*, which, somehow, really startle and shock on every reading.

Whatever these aesthetic objections, *Stand By, Stand By* confirms that Ryan will never be confused with his namesake, the author of *An Introduction to Hotel and Catering Economics*. Suggest otherwise, and you might find an RPG missile parked on the lawn.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

Lights, camera, credit card

THE SUBTITLE reads, "How a hatchet-man critic made his own \$7,000 movie and put it all on his credit card". Hatchet-man is right: Joe Queenan admits to making his name writing sarcastic articles for America's *Movieline* magazine, "trashing movie stars without ever having to meet them". A healthy profession. Then he read an article trumpeting Robert Rodriguez, the maverick Tex-Mex director who scored a hit with his film *El Mariachi*, made, so the myth insisted, for \$7,000.

Queenan got to wondering. Could anyone else — he meant himself — pip this feat by making a watchable movie for \$6,998 dollars? Someone with no training other than having watched thousands of other people's movies? To find out, he flipped through various books, took a two-day course with the no-nonsense Dov Sosen, wrote a black comedy script called *Twelve Steps to Death* (included herein), leant on family, friends and neighbours (sources of the cast), filmed the script in nine chaotic days, unveiled the results at the USA Film Festival in Dallas, and wrote this book.

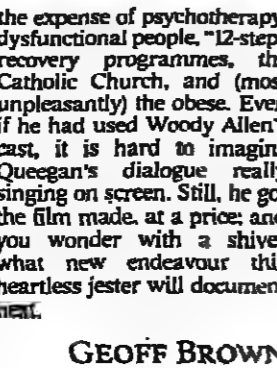
Total cost to Queenan, including ancillary matters such as publicity, was \$65,193 dollars; and at the end of the day, he did not even have a film with a public future (Slight, undermanned, only intermittently funny, said *Variety*). He had more success generating material for a comic book about the practicalities and lunatic accidents of no-

■ **THE UNKINDEST CUT**
By Joe Queenan
Picador, £6.99
ISBN 0 330 34112 X

budget film-making, though he is prone to repetition, and you grow weary of page upon page of smart-ass cynicism about every human endeavour (his own included).

His script, a murder mystery parody, suffers the same faults. Despite funny lines, it is suffied by shallow banter at the expense of psychotherapy, dysfunctional people, "12-step" recovery programmes, the Catholic Church, and (most unpleasantly) the obese. Even if he had used Woody Allen's cast, it is hard to imagine Queenan's dialogue really singing on screen. Still, he got the film made, at a price; and you wonder with a shiver what new endeavour this heartless jester will document next.

GEOFF BROWN



Queenan: heartless jester

Is this the moment for a translation from the Basque of a thriller sympathetic to the ETA armed struggle? Peter Millar thinks it is

Tongue-tied with terror

IN THE aftermath of the Tarragona terrorist attack, Harvill must be having second thoughts about the timing of its publication of Bernardo Axcaga's excursion into the world of the ETA Basque separatist movement.

The Basque problem is rarely understood, or given much sympathy apart from in Libya and the ranks of the IRA. The Basque language, often glibly dismissed as "impenetrable", is one of Europe's most remarkable survivals and, like Finnish and Hungarian (with which it shares the unusual practice of forming the plural

in k), totally unrelated to the linguistic groups around it. Some understanding of its singularity may be gleaned from the fact that the original title of Bernardo Axcaga's book, *The Lone Man*, translated from the Spanish version, *El Hombre Solo*, was *Gizona Berekadadean*.

But as so often with small nations, the language is a

defining element, and the production of modern literature in it proof of continuing vibrancy. It is therefore wholly praiseworthy that Axcaga should have tackled the greatest issue facing the Basque people: the merits and justification of the continuing terror campaign for independence despite democracy and the huge degree of autonomy

■ **THE LONE MAN**
By Bernardo Axcaga
Harvill, £15.99
ISBN 1 86046 135 2

granted by Madrid since the death of Franco.

The Lone Man is set just five years after the dictator's death, at a moment when the new Spain was determined to present a showcase to the

world, during the 1982 World Cup in Barcelona. The protagonists are an ageing group of former ETA men, grown disillusioned with the armed struggle and living a semi-communal existence in a hotel bought with the proceeds of their last bank raids.

They still talk in the old terms, refer to each other by old codenames, but their real

passions are football, each other's wives, the hotel waitresses and the fate of the group's one male offspring, a five-year-old boy named Pascal. But two events throw their cosy world into chaos. Their hotel is chosen to put up the Polish World Cup squad, complete with police protection. Meanwhile, Carlos, their one-time leader and co-owner of

the hotel, has secretly given sanctuary to two still active ETA terrorists.

The tale is told essentially from Carlos's point of view, in the third person, at the centre of a closing police dragnet and a web of multiple deceptions stretching from the present back into his past. The dialogue — perhaps because of the double translation — is not as fluid as it might be, but otherwise this is a spellbinding, sympathetic odyssey into the mind of a former terrorist. Those currently involved in the profession will draw only cold comfort from the ending.

Nautical cobbers in arms

Hard-bitten Aussies fight the Nazi navy in the Battle of the Atlantic

"THEY'RE all good blokes. They're the best, the cream, every bloody one of 'em." Bob Stack, a hard-bitten son of the Outback turned commander of a gun and torpedo-boat flotilla, is proud of his boys. And he has good reason to be.

It is early autumn, 1943, and Grand Admiral Doenitz is gathering his forces for a further round in the Battle of the Atlantic. To this end, the *Heilbronn*, a former banana boat, has been refitted and armed as a supply vessel and is on its way from Le Havre to Brest and thence to the open sea. Can the Royal Navy coastal service sink it before it can begin its fiendish career?

Well, how could they possibly fail? Stack himself, grizzled before his time, is experienced and fearless. He really cares for his men but never loses sight of the job in hand. Ben Quarry, a fellow Australian, is his navigator — a man who wrestles about equally with his girlfriend and his conscience.

Stack and Quarry are dinkum cobbers who have done well out of the war. Stack has married his navigator's former girlfriend, the daughter of a "beted earl", while Quarry himself is hopelessly in love with a glamorous, half-French agent of the Special Operations Executive, determined to return to Rouen to help bring down the Bosch.

The villain, or anti-hero, of the piece is Mike Furness, an Old Etonian, "long-legged, dark and smoothly handsome", who, despite being Stack's number one torpedo man, insists on having an affair with his wife, Lady Joan, the spouse in question, is a "Free Fanny", an unpaid member of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry, somewhat wayward by nature, who believes there are better ways of getting her pants off than having them bored off her by a

■ **BAND OF BROTHERS**
By Alexander Fullerton
Little, Brown, £16.99
ISBN 0 316 87931 2

husband interested solely in marine mayhem.

For Quarry, the problem is, how can he tell his commanding officer and best mate that Lady J is no better than she ought to be? In the meantime, the *Heilbronn* is waiting, and at the mighty engines of the MTBs and MGBs churn up the Channel, we know we are in for one hell of a fight.

So it proves. Fullerton certainly knows what it is like to be involved in action at sea and he gives it to us straight, with no punches pulled. The crews, with names such as Billy Bigarse, Banjo Bennett and Soapy Leathers, are "characters" to a man, ready to sacrifice eyes, limbs, even



Fullerton: exciting yarn

lives in the service of king and country and still laugh about it afterwards (unless, of course, they are dead). It is scarcely giving away the plot to disclose that this latest Fullerton yarn represents another one in the eye for the Führer at the hands of our boys. But it is enormously good fun and even, when it is intelligible, rather exciting. I enjoyed it.

WALTER ELLIS

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Bernard Levin on Wagner; Nigel Wat on spies; Jonathan Minsky on Hong Kong

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Kingly victory: Henry V at the battle of Agincourt — today the site north of Maisonscelles has reverted to farmland

THE ROAD that spans the open fields just north of Maisonscelles is a quiet country lane today. On a wet October morning, 580 years ago, the archers of Henry V stood where the tarmac stretches across the corn stubble between Azincourt and Tramecourt and flayed the French knights with a hail of arrows. From the site of the old English battle line, reminders and memorials, ancient and modern, lie on every side, each one a pointer to what happened here, but the only way really to understand the battle of Agincourt is to explore the battlefield on foot.

Touring battlefields is a popular hobby and Richard Holmes, a former lecturer at the Royal Military Academy

Summoning up the blood

■ **WAR WALKS: From Agincourt to Normandy**
By Richard Holmes
BBC Books, £16.99
ISBN 0 563 38749 1

Sandhurst and a Territorial Army brigadier, has chosen six western European battlefields, Agincourt (1415), Waterloo (1815) Mons and Le Cateau (1914), the Somme (1916), Arras (1940) and the Goodwood attack in Normandy in 1944 as suitable battlefields for foot-

powered exploration. Battles have expanded down the centuries and exploring the two battlefields will require a certain amount of car travel, but all the others lie within the grasp of a reasonably fit walker with anything from an afternoon to a couple of days to spare, an interest in military history and this useful and entertaining book.

Holmes makes the point that this is not a guidebook in the strict sense for it does not

contain details of where to eat and sleep. What it does offer is a clear account of the campaign leading to the battle, significant points about the soldiers, their weapons and the actual encounter, and a detailed tour of the battlefield today. The book is well illustrated, apart from some rather inadequate maps, but nevertheless this is all a traveller needs to enjoy a battlefield tour.

The book will — or at least should — spur visitors to get out of the car or coach and experience these battlefields as the soldiers did long ago, with a certain amount of effort, and through the soles of their boots.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Waugh's feint with damned praise

● EVELYN WAUGH once said that irritability was his worst fault — "Irritability with absolutely everything, inanimate objects and people, animals, anything". But a collection of *The Sayings of Evelyn Waugh* edited by Donat Callahan, coming soon from Duckworth, shows that not all his epigrams were bad-tempered. What about: "The heavy port drinker must be prepared to make some sacrifice of personal beauty and agility"? Or: "Everyone has always regarded any usage but his own as either barbarous or pedantic"? However, there is a section of "Sharp Sayings" that includes his bitter view of the Irish — "the adroit and joyless race that break the hearts of all who try to help them".

BOOK NEWS

● **ALTHOUGH** he won the Nobel Prize for Literature last year, Seamus Heaney has let his new book, *The Spirit Level*, go on to the shortlist for the 1996 Forward Prize for the best poetry collection, worth £10,000. *Green and modesty? His rivals are U.A. Fanthorpe, the first woman ever to be nominated as Oxford Professor of Poetry (though she did not get the job); John Fuller, son of Roy Fuller, and a don at Magdalen College, Oxford, who has been called by Peter Porter "the omniscient ringmaster of contemporary poetry"; the clever Scotsman, W.N. Herbert, and the Faber poet Charles*

Boyle. Results on October 9, the eve of National Poetry Day.

● **THE** goggle-eyed television comedian Sean Hughes has written a novel, set — where else? — in a small town outside Dublin. *The Detainees* is about two men who meet each other again after many years. However, their reunion is not a happy one. It reawakens memories of bullying and persecution — and it leads to some blackly comic revenge.

● **MIXED** news for Richard Ingrams. A Times reader was looking for a copy of *The Oldie* on the WH Smith bookstall at Charing Cross station. He found it — on the shelf labelled "for older children".

Tosh @ cyber.sex

KATHERINE is 45, a suburban American housewife. She subscribes to the LuxNet Information Service, one of those computer systems which allows you to leave messages within specialists areas for other members, and joins LuxNet's Adult Topics Bulletin Board, where she becomes Katie and joins in the fun.

And, oh, what fun they have. Some nights they have theme parties where they all leave messages telling each other what 1970s clothing they are pretending to wear. Imagine the giggles! On other nights, they swap more meaningful messages in which Katie, abandoned beyond all imagining now, admits that she collects "handmade baskets of all kinds and have dozens on display in my house" or, more intimately still, that "I own a whimsical collection of pigs".

Katie starts corresponding privately with Buck, who is something in the oil business, and John, a medical man. Soon she is having online affairs with both of them. How can I describe Katie's online affairs? Only to tell you that while you are having one, you can only type with one hand. Every so often Katie swaps a confiding message with other members who are being beat-

■ **E-MAIL: /a. love. story. /**
By Stephanie D. Fletcher
Headline, £5.99
ISBN 0 7472 5534 2

en by their real-life spouses or having weight problems. In the end, Katie's husband finds out what is happening and she stops doing it. End of story. As plot-lines go, I have seen Rupert the Bear comic strips with more twists.

Thus do we discover the disturbing world of sex on the Internet, a shady and dysfunctional place where prim women describe the sexual act as if it were a new form of flower arrangement and otherwise normal men describe wanton acts of auto-eroticism with all the punctuation in the right place. A tedious, plonking world where irony is displayed not in a participant's choice of words but by writing "for grin" at the end of a sentence and where the major emotions are described as if by a writer of the cheaper sort of condolence card.

Sadly, it is a pretty accurate rendition of the prose style of the average Internet conversation and is yet another reason why you should have no fear about allowing your children to go online.

JOHN DIAMOND

CRIME ROUND-UP

Abuse of the truth

■ **CAST THE FIRST STONE**
By Jane Adams
Macmillan, £15.99
ISBN 0 333 64425 5

ANGRY locals regularly gather to throw stones and shout abuse at the house in a quiet Norfolk close where Eric Pearson has brought his wife and six children. Rumours have spread about his perverted past: he denies them, and waits to reveal all when the appeal of a convicted child abuser reaches court.

A few houses away, Ellie Masouk, soon to give birth, watches the increasing violence with a particular, awful reason to be anxious and distressed. At the same time, not far away, a teenage boy undergoes a horrifying assault.

The strands unite shockingly as Detective Inspector Mike Croft uncovers a series of disturbing truths. *Cast the First Stone* is a quiet, touching work of great impact. Jane Adams subtly evokes an outwardly respectable society harbouring appalling secrets; and it is always the children who are the most vulnerable. Adams's debut last year, *The Greenhouse*, hinted at a promising crime-writing talent. *Cast the First Stone* amply confirms that view.

■ **A TIMELY DEATH**
By Janet Neel
Constable, £15.99
ISBN 0 09 476080 2

IT HAS been three years since Janet Neel's last book; happily the gap has not blunted her skills. In *A Timely Death*, a crooked time-share salesman is found hanging, wearing women's underwear. The suspects include a son with a heavy drug habit, another son with a penchant for beating up his women, a much younger second wife (what is more, a foreigner), a dodgy business partner and a sleazy, greedy MP. Is the killing personal, or connected to the layers of fraud underlying the deceased's business?

Francesca Wilson, the DTI investigator heroine of Neel's previous novels, is drawn in through her voluntary work at a battered women's refuge. Her dourish husband, Chief Superintendent John McLeish, is in charge of official inquiries. Between the two of them, though not without strain to their marriage, they confront the emotional and economic undercurrents of the crime.

As usual, Neel's mix of lively financial skulduggery and superior characterisation results in top-class excitement.

■ **FULL PERSONAL SERVICE**
By Charles Spencer
Gollancz, £16.99
ISBN 0 575 06293 2

THE title *Full Personal Service* refers to one of the options available to clients of a brothel which, for the best possible motives, journalist Will Benson — having quit *Theatre World* for a far higher-paying job inventing the letters pages for the soft-core mag *Luv Bites* — is compelled to visit. The kind lady who had ministered to him is later attacked and detoured, leaving him with a tape containing customers' names, every one of them the possible malefactor.

The scruffy, chubby, disorganised Benson is a shrewd and amiable operator, the writing is from the self-deprecatingly witty school, and the book is altogether highly entertaining.

MARCEL BERLINS

NEW AUTHORS
FILL IN YOUR NAME
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MINERVA PRESS
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BOOKS

11

The king Rat's tardy tale

Martin Bell on the unpunctual memoirs of a Gulf War general



Eschews introspection: Margaret Thatcher (1981)

MARGARET THATCHER: *The Path to Power* HarperCollins, £9.99 ISBN 0 00 688 753 5 AS THE memoirs of a British Prime Minister, *The Path to Power* could not have failed to be an important, if not impressive document. Recounting her Grantham childhood, her years at Oxford, and rise through the ranks until her election victory as Conservative leader in 1979, they form a sequel to the already published *Downing Street Years*. Certainly, Thatcher provides an enormous wealth of detail here to keep political historians busy, particularly regarding her unease in the Heath cabinet, and the Conservative rethink that occupied her years as opposition leader. No real surprises here, but there are now and

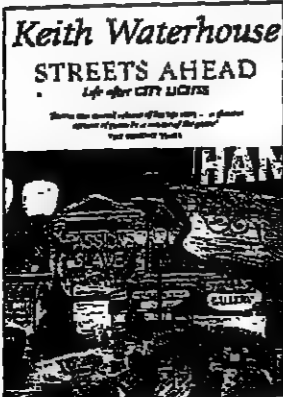
then a number of unexpected turns: the reading lists, for instance, that she describes as shaping her political development, or (more quickly) the tone of near compassion in relating the fall of Heath (always "Ted", only once "Edward"), a good word for Michael Foot, a flash of generosity towards Aitken. The second section off the book — part analysis, part manifesto — takes up the story after leaving Downing Street, and lays out the 1990s Thatcherite line on European Union, foreign policy, economic policy and international relations. Uncannily for a memoir, *The Path to Power* maintains throughout a guarded, distantly analytical tone. Any search for personal revelation or insight here is in vain. This is the memoir of somebody who eschews introspection.



INTIMACY By Julian Rathbone

INTIMACY By Julian Rathbone Indigo, £5.99 ISBN 0 575 400 19 6 THE Villa Melchor in Andalusia is laden with memories. The home of the last castrato singer Querubino, it is heavy, not only with the scents and sounds of southern Spain (wonderfully and sensuously described) but also with a mysterious sexuality which could be real or fantasy. Querubino, now in his eighties, dreams of a sexual relationship with his mother: Petra, his pupil, remembers seducing her father and finds herself now in love with Marie-Elena. But this novel's subtle exploration of sexual identity is expressed through powerful details of food, music and natural beauty. The result can be confusing but is always evocative.

THE CHRISTENING By Denise Neubaus Faber, £6.99, ISBN 0 571 174 67 1 THIRTY years and more of Cold War history are brought to vivid life in this absorbing story of an Estonian family caught in the Crossfire. Teenage Piret loses her baby to a cousin who emigrates to Sweden. Taking refuge in the abstractions of Marxist economic theory, Piret finds herself and her extended family used to discredit a dissident professor. Denise Neubaus reveals the history of her characters with clarity, endowing her narrative with precise imaginative insight into ordinary lives on both sides of the political borderland. A chilling theme but an enchanting novel.



STREETS AHEAD By Keith Waterhouse

STREETS AHEAD By Keith Waterhouse Scribner, £6.99 ISBN 0 340 649 09 7 THIS entertaining, colourful second volume of memoirs brings us up to date. Never coyly modest, Waterhouse surveys the on-going phenomenal success of *Jeffery Bernard Is Unwell* and his guide to tabloidism. But real fun is in his vivid portrait of London in the Fifties and Sixties. We see him as a failing new hack in eccentric old Fleet Street then, as the hit author of *Billy Liar*, trawling the pubs and clubs of seedy, starchy Soho. This is not a delving confessional but is full of fantastic anecdotes, memorably including Peter O'Toole reeling onto stage and throwing up in character.

Contributors: Adam Schwartzman, Lucy Lethbridge, Alison Burns, Nicki Household, Kate Bassett, Amanda Loose.

THE PRINCIPAL qualities of a British cavalry officer — of which charm and guile are the ones they attribute to themselves — do not usually include punctuality. Even so, Patrick Cordingley is spectacularly late on parade with his memoir of the Gulf War. It was a short war with a long preamble, which he himself helped to bring to a successful conclusion more than five years ago.

As commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, heirs of the Desert Rats, he led British tanks in action for the first time in two generations. It was, to his great relief, very much less than the promised Mother of all Battles; rather, it was a 100-hour dash across the desert, and a live fire exercise with Iraqi extras surrendering by the thousand. His record of it, which is lively and personal and well-remembered, will interest many others besides the soldiers who served under him.

It suffers, as do all books by serving soldiers, from the censorship or pre-emptive self-censorship required by the Ministry of Defence. It follows from this that commanders must be faultless and their political directives flawless. So some of the subtler judgments are deeply encoded. But the passage of time has allowed more frankness than would have been possible in a more immediate account.

In an Army that tends to promote managers rather than leaders, Cordingley was, and is, an old-fashioned leader, and not afraid to question the wisdom of his superiors. Under the original battle plan, his brigade would have gone to war alongside the US Marines in a frontal, if diversionary, attack on the Iraqis in Kuwait City. He warned to the Marines and they to him:

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM By Major General Patrick Cordingley Hodder & Stoughton, £18.99 ISBN 0 340 68245 0

And when he assured them in the distinctive upper-class tones of a British cavalry officer that "the Desert Rats will not let you down", he seemed the ultimate general from Central Casting. So the change of plan, when his tanks and armoured infantry were switched to the US Army's VII Corps further west, was not a popular move. "Politically," he writes, "we would have gained most glory if we had been involved in the liberation of Kuwait City itself."

Typically for a soldier, he frets too much about the press. "I worry now," he says, "as I did then about the effects of the media on modern warfare." But as one of the scribes-in-uniform who served under him, I remember that the military exercised total control. The censorship was so strict that we were not allowed even to write about the work of army chaplains. (I was reduced to describing them as welfare officers.)

Yet the general was actually protected by his closeness to the press. He recalls President Bush's visit to the troops in the desert on the day of Mrs Thatcher's resignation. When Kate Adie asked for his reaction, he spoke candidly about his admiration for the Prime Minister and his sadness at her going — remarks which, if broadcast, might well have cost him his job. Adie lost the tape and warned him to be more careful. Others might not have done that. He was lucky that day that the pool reporter was someone so supportive of the military.

There was less to James Dean's life than meets the eye



Too young to die: James Dean — but could his reputation have survived a long career?

Rebel without a past

JAMES DEAN lived just 24 years before dying at the wheel of his Porsche Spyder. It was the old joke goes, a perfect career move. His death emboldened him as America's first teenage rebel without a cause. All those young dudes who followed — River Phoenix, Kurt Cobain, Sid Vicious — died in the long shadow of Jimmy Dean.

Few movie lives have left such a bold mark in so little time. The Dean myth is founded upon just three films and scraps of television work, which sets the biographer a dilemma. With such a brief life to explore, the making of the image becomes all important.

The construction of James Dean begins with Dean the child. Spoto rakes over the ground here and comes up with little of interest. Most children, after all, lead humdrum lives. He became the King of the Wannabes. Few young actors have so yearned to be a star. And not just any star. He had Marlon Brando and Montgomery Clift in mind. The breakthrough came when his erratic offscreen life and hatred of his father were brilliantly harnessed by Elia Kazan (*East of Eden*), Nicholas Ray (*Rebel Without a Cause*) and George Stevens (*Giant*).

REBEL: The Life and Legend of James Dean By Donald Spoto HarperCollins, £18 ISBN 0 00 255687 1

Then came violent death and the varnishing of the Dean legend: posthumous revelations about his homosexuality and masochism added spice to his troubled on-screen persona. All this is familiar, which leaves Spoto scrabbling around proving negatives. Yes, Dean was gay. Yes, he lived with an older man. But there is no hard evidence that he was a hustler. Nor that he was the "Human Ashtray" of some lurid biographies. So, Spoto concludes, Dean was less interesting than we thought — hardly a popular message.

Dean was a chimera whose reputation might not have survived a long career. (Alas, poor Brando; imagine if he had died after *The Wild One*.) Trying to get at "the truth" about such an elusive character strikes at the heart of biography. No biographer can really know his subject; the reader here is left wondering whether Spoto understood Dean at all.

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

You can't have your popcorn and eat it, Ben

ON THE night that cult Los Angeles movie director Bruce LaMotte returns home from winning an Oscar for his gratuitously violent high-art movie *Ordinary Americans*, he finds a pair of real-life psychopaths in his living room. The "Mall Murders", Wayne Hudson and his pretty wait-like girlfriend Scout, have seen every one of LaMotte's movies countless times. They have also casually murdered about 50 people between them, sometimes just for kicks. Killing makes Wayne horny, and Scout adores the way he terrifies their chance-encountered targets with his tough talk and his guns.

Ben Elton's new novel *Popcorn*, his fourth, is a parable of our contemporary media-dominated society. Like his stand-up television comedy routines, it satirises the self-regarding, manipulative, vain and greedy world of minor celebrities, their conveniently flexible principles and values, and the troubling control they appear to hold over the way we all conduct our lives. Any resemblance between *Popcorn* and Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, between LaMotte and Tarantino, is entirely deliberate. This is a pop novel with a corny plot because Elton's target is the tawdry claims to high seriousness and art status made by

POPCORN By Ben Elton Simon & Schuster, £12.99 ISBN 0 684 81621 1



Elton: pop novel, corny plot

Hollywood directors to justify graphic scenes of bullets smashing into human flesh, and guts all over our screens. Wayne and Scout know that the crucial question under debate is whether screen violence has influenced them. Now, to save their skins, they want LaMotte to tell the world that they were not responsible for their appalling acts — that they were helpless victims of a multimillion-dollar industry. And Elton teases us with an impossible choice between laying blame for the carnage he depicts at the feet of the chillingly clear-headed and yet lunatic killers or at those of the lying and cheating media celebrities.

The trouble is that Elton's story, with its double narration of unspeakable violence — once for real, and once re-played in a sickeningly precise screenplay version — mimics the very forms the author claims to despise. *Popcorn* is itself pulp fiction — stuffed

with salacious sex and lovingly described acts of brutality. Elton seems to suggest that in *Popcorn* these incidents are made ironic and postmodern. But isn't that precisely what Kubrick, Stone and Tarantino told us about their movies?

LISA JARDINE

This collection will introduce British readers to the very particular spinal shiver of this American writer's tales: keep your nightlight burning if you read it in bed.

ERICA WAGNER

TEENAGE FICTION

White-knuckle read

ANYONE planning to take one of those stomach-churning rides at a theme park should read Helen Dunmore's dramatic thriller, *Fatal Error* (Corgi, £3.50, ISBN 0 440 86345 7), after their trip, rather than before. Living with the Darnianos, designers of computer-driven rides, Nicky has more than her fair share of thrills. She can inspect a jungle of stairs from the powerful Space Ranger whenever she is not too busy selling tickets. But computer whizzes such as the Darnianos apparently have their rivals and, when competitors turn to sabotage, Nicky finds herself whirling endlessly in simulated space while rapidly running out of air.

Having recently won the new Orange prize for Women's Fiction, Helen Dunmore has done an impressive switch into the mind and dialogue of an adolescent girl. If there were an award for transfixing, tumultuous excitement, this would be a winner. Awards can be a useful resource when picking and choosing between the 6,000 or so books published every year for young readers, but the WH.



Dunmore transfixing

Smith Mind-Boggling Books Award is a strange affair. Designed to help "make reading fun" with the shortest apparently chosen by schoolchildren, the snag is that however acute the young judges, the paperback put into their hands inevitably raises questions. Why, for instance, were two books chosen, including the acquired-taste winner, *Walk Two Moons* by Sharon Creech (Macmillan, £3.99, ISBN 0 220 22000 4), written by American? And why select Griffin's *Castle* by Jenny Nimmo (Mammouth, £3.50, ISBN 0 7497 2602 4), which, however magical, was first published a mind-boggling 32 years ago? The answer, which seems to be that all have previously won other awards, hardly makes them the best books of 1996.

MAUREEN OWEN

Who we did on our holidays

AS MOST people have found out at some time, holidays can seriously damage your emotional health. Cut loose from the routines of household maintenance and office drudgery, holidaymakers have the dubious pleasure of time on their hands, time that can be used to ruminate poisonously on the disintegrations of a marriage or the shortcomings of growing children.

Ann Oakley, who has a sound literary reputation for the tart examination of domestic frailty — she is the author of *The Men's Room* and *Matilda's Mistake*, both of which make no bones about the precarious nature of commitment — turns her attention here to the havoc wreaked by blue skies, cheap booze and unfamiliar bodies squeezed into bunks. Assembled at the Hotel Rhapsoody Palace in Karpat in Turkey in the blazing summer of 1992, courtesy of a package tour operated by Proper Holidays, is a group of men, women and children, of whom many have an urge to shed their inhibitions along with their travelling clothes.

Crispin Delamory and his wife Dodo are former flower children, although the years, and parenthood, have brought them to membership of the

A PROPER HOLIDAY By Ann Oakley Flamingo, £5.99 ISBN 0 00 65014 2

morgaged salariat. Their teenage daughters, Star and Jade, are going through that Doc Martens/purple hair stage that parents find so unendearing. The children of Derrick and Lisa Upson, and Sandy and Martin Holbeach, similarly look like trouble: while Aaron Shaw, the son of a single mother, Meg, is the sort of teenager — polite, studious and interested in archaeology — of whom adults approve.

While the rebellious young tangle dangerously with drugs, drink and the local talent, their parents become more threateningly entwined in extramarital liaisons. Oakley describes with brisk gusto the sheer exhaustion of marriage: the grudging sex and unconscious but cruel lack of mutual concern. Yet, by the end, wandering spouses have realised that holiday romances, like shells, do not look so pretty once you take them home. *A Proper Holiday* makes you think a little and smile a lot, which qualifies it for proper holiday reading.

PENNY PERRICK

AVOCADO.
In 1962 it meant a whole new world of sophistication.
(Even if it was eaten with ketchup.)

Laurie Graham
The TEN o'clock HORSES
"A collection of ten short stories, each a masterpiece of suspense, mystery, and horror." — *Booklist*
'FUNNY AND POIGNANT'
SUNDAY EXPRESS
'WICKEDLY FUNNY'
OPTIONS
'DAZZLING'
MAUREEN LIPMAN
UNFORGETTABLE!
READ IT NOW IN BLACK SWAN PAPERBACK

GOING OUT

CHILDREN

LONDON
Big Friendly Giant
 Fun workshops for eight to 14-year-olds running throughout summer based on Roald Dahl's famous story.
Rosemary Branch Theatre, Shepperton Road, NI (0171-704 6665). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-12.30pm (ages 12-14), 2pm-4pm (ages 8-11); £1.

The Family Activity Cart
 Three to 12-year-olds are invited to participate in a range of activities.
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm, ends Aug 11; free.

Kids Universe
 Summer event for all children including puppet magic, face-painting, costumed animals, free sweets and balloons.
Selfridges (First Floor), Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629 1234). Today, midday-6pm; phone for details.

Poems to Read to Your Parents
 Seven-year-olds and above are invited to join in and watch a fun-packed event including poetry readings, music and dance.
Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tomorrow, 2.30pm; £3, parents concs £2.50.

REGIONAL

BELFAST
The Portrush Flyer
 Steam train excursion devised for youngsters and parents alike journeying from Belfast to Portrush seaside.
Belfast Central Railway Station, (01960 353 567). Today, departs Belfast 9.05am, arrives Portrush midday; departs Portrush 4.45pm, arrives Belfast 7.30pm; £15, concs £9 (booking: 01960 344 566 or fax 01960 350 350).



London, Kids Universe: the magic of face-painting is just one of the many treats in store today at Selfridges in Oxford Street

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
 Featuring Kate O'Mara as the evil queen, plus songs, jokes, and plenty of magic.
Grand Opera House, Great Victoria Street (01232 241 919). Tonight, 7pm, mat. 2.30pm; £5-£10, family conc available.

CRAIGAYON
Eel Fest
 Focusing on the slippery sea snake with fisherfolk tales, refreshments, together with a range of

activities in this marine adventure.
Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island, (01762 322 205). Today, 2pm-7pm; prices vary, phone for details.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Gallerly
 Specially devised for the under fives, including art, toys and games.
Laird Art Gallery, Higham Place (0191-232 7734). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; free.

Science Factory
 Science centre for children including interactive learning facilities.
Discovery Museum, Blandford Square (0191-232 6789). Today, 10am-5pm; free.

SALFORD

Summer Fun in Salford
 Outdoor fun for children of all ages including sporting events, play scheme and a reading quest.
Summer in Salford Information, various venues (0161-736 9448).

Today, tomorrow, times vary, phone for details; free.

WICKLOW

Town Guinness Regatta Festival
 Family festival with a special focus today on events for children. Activities include a magic show and open-air treasure hunt.
Town Centre and Riverside, (00353 404 68117). Today, 10am-9pm; free, tomorrow, festival for the family continues, phone for details.

POP

LONDON
Adilla the Stockbroker's Barnstormer
 Post-punk performance poet's medieval pet project.
The Weavers, Newington Green Road, NI (0171-226 6911). Tonight, 8.30pm; £5.

The Big Five, Forget the Down
 Ska revival supergroup featuring former Belle Stars, Bad Manners and more.
Mean Fiddler, Harlesden High Street, NW10 (0181-961 5490). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

The Eagles, Kenny Wayne Shepherd
 Adult-orientated rock giants of the 1970s, with crowd-pleasing line-up.
Wembley Stadium, Empire Way, HA9 (0181-900 1234). Today, 4pm; £25-£30.

Otis Grand
 Hammond organ and brass section for the blues guitarist's current show.

Half Moon, Lower Richmond Road, SW15 (0181-780 9383). Tonight, 8.30pm; £5.



Loch Lomond: Oasis

Number One Cup, Bawl
 Fizzy college rock from Chicago-based band.
The Garage, Highbury Corner, N5 (0171-607 1818). Tonight, 8pm; admission £5.

John Otway
 Rock 'n' roll's self-proclaimed greatest failure

still has enough energy to wake up new audiences.
Half Moon, Lower Richmond Road, SW15 (0181-780 9383). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £5.

Mike Spivey, Marcia Griffiths, Phyllis Dillon, Cornel Campbell
 Jamaica's 34th Year of Independence celebrations reggae show.
The Forum, Highgate Road, NW5 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 7pm; £17.50.

REGIONAL

ASHFORD
Jools Holland and His Rhythm and Blues Orchestra
 Boogie-woogie's highest profile enthusiast with his 15-piece R & B troupe.
South Park Show Centre, (01233 611 204). Tonight, £12.50.

BASILDON
Smalltown Heroes
 From the large town of Sunderland, promoting their new album, *Human Soup*.
Towngate Theatre, Pagel Mead (01268 531 343). Tonight, 8pm; £3.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

DODGY
 Their new single, *Good Enough*, sounds like Squeeze on uppers. But whether Dodgy's hyperactive pop sound gets under your skin or on your nerves, the trio from London certainly has a way of making things happen. This summer they will be coming to a park near you with their travelling "Big Top" show, complete with various guest bands and added attractions including lightshow, jugglers, acrobats, jugglers and performers on stilts. Remarkably, the group plays Tuzla (Aug 9) and Sarajevo (Aug 10) in Bosnia as part of Artists Convoy for a United Bosnia, but you can catch up with the fun closer to home this weekend, at Derby and Oldham.

Markaton Park (in the Big Top with the Candyskins). Derby (01332 255 800). Tonight, 7.30pm; £11.50. **Werneth Park** (outdoors with Audioweb — no tent). Oldham (0161-911 4072). Tomorrow, noon-7pm, free.

EDINBURGH
The Eagles, Kenny Wayne Shepherd
 See London.
Murrayfield Stadium, (0131-557 6969). Tomorrow, 5pm; £28.50.

LOCH LOMOND
Oasis
 One of the Summer's biggest concerts, the Gallagher Brit-rock juggernaut rumbles on.
Balloch Castle, (0800 614 595). Today, tomorrow, midday; phone for availability.

RUSHTON
Sundaze Festival
 Rock festival with Scrap Iron Scientists, Crazyhead, Stranger Tractors, Draw Konfusion, Hellotrope and Babyface.
Rushton Hall.

(01536 710 002). Tomorrow, midday; £6.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Stockton Riverside Festival
 TIP, the Rye, Windjammer, the Haoles, Caravanserai (today), Fun-Da-Mental, Sally Nyolo, Akwaba People, Sonora La Calle (tonight), Blues in the Afternoon (tomorrow), Pichi Valdes, Edward II, Rock Salt and Nails, Voice of the North (tomorrow evening), *Riverside Festival*, Music Main Stage, Trinity Church Grounds (01642 611 625). Today, midday and 7pm; tomorrow, midday and 5.30pm; free.

SUTTON

Earth Energy Music Festival
 Dance All-Dayers featuring Orbital, Mad Professor, Jah Wobble, Nightmares on Wax, Spooky (today); Soul Salt and L.V. Mica Paris, Alison Limerick, Truce, Pauline Henry (tomorrow), *Beddington Park*, Wallington (01273 705 060). Today, tomorrow, 1pm; £17 (today), £15 (tomorrow).

GALLERIES

LONDON
George Baselitz
 Neo-Expressionist paintings by this German artist.
Goetz Institut, Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, SW7 (0171-411 3400). Today, 9.30am-12.30pm; admission free.

Larry Clark
 The original photographs from his film, *Kids*.
Photographers' Gallery, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-831 1772). Today, 11am-6pm; free.

Group Show
 Work by Dan Graham, Victor Burgin, John Hilliard and Rodney Graham.
Lisson Gallery, Lisson Street, NW1 (0171-724 739). Today, 10am-5pm; admission free.

Inside Banksy
 Contemporary work by Thomas Struth, Catherine Yass and Dennis Creffield.
South London Art Gallery, Peckham Road, SE5 (0171-703 6120). Today, tomorrow, 2pm-6pm; free.

The Open
 Open submission show featuring the work of more than 100 artists.
Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (0171-522 7888). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; free.

REGIONAL

BRADFORD
Pen on Penn
 Large-scale retrospective of Irving Penn's photographs, selected by himself.
National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Pictureville (01274 727 488). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-6pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

KENNETH ARMISTAGE
 One by one the school of exciting young sculptors who first achieved fame at the time of the Festival of Britain are turning 80, and so by definition into Grand Old Men. But somehow the description seems curiously wide of the mark when applied to Kenneth Armistage, whose eightieth birthday is being duly celebrated in Yorkshire Sculpture Park with a retrospective. Although his earliest sculptures now look "fiftysish", his latest works belong equally clearly to today. Armistage has never let himself be tied down to a formula, but followed his own imagination in his choice of subject and materials. "Fashioned in an attitude of pleasure and playfulness", his reflections on trees and men are thoroughly serious, and the greatest fun.

CARLISLE
Andy Goldsworthy
 Collection of the artist's drawings featuring recent site-specific proposals.
Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Street (01228 34781). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, midday-5pm; free.

EDINBURGH
George Rodger
 Inimitable African photographs from the late master of photo-journalism.
Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound (0131-225 6671). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2pm-5pm; £4, concs £2.50.

London Adventist Chorale
 The world premiere of *Who Has Seen The Glory*, plus spirituals by Randall Thompson and Shelton E. Kilby III.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 4pm; £8.

REGIONAL
AUDLEY END
National Symphony Orchestra
 Dorell Davidson conducts the "Last Night of the Proms". An all-American first half precedes an all-English second half.
Audley End House, near Saffron Walden (tickets on 0171-413 1443/344 4444). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £11-14.

CHELTENHAM
Emerald Chamber Players
 Elgar's *Serenade* and other works for strings.
Pittville Pump Room, Albert Road (01242 227 979). Tonight, 8pm; £10-£15.

OXFORD
Scream and Scream Again
 Group show exploring the use of the moving image in art practice, including work by Douglas Gordon and Sadie Benning.
Museum of Modern Art, Pembroke Street (01865 722 733). Today, tomorrow, 11am-6pm; £2.50, concs £1.50.

CLASSICAL

LONDON
BBC Symphony Orchestra
 A programme of American music, including John Adams's *Violin Concerto* (soloist Ernst Kovacic) and Copland's *Cygnus* (soloist Simon Preston), plus works by Ives and Ellington's *Harlem*.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £4-£18.



London: Leonard Slatkin

Corinthian Orchestra
 Mozart's *Haffner* Symphony and Copland's *Appalachian Spring*.
St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053). Tonight, 7.30pm.

European Union Youth Orchestra
 Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, Strauss's *Dun Juan* and Sibelius's *Second Symphony*.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm; £4-£23.

London Adventist Chorale
 The world premiere of *Who Has Seen The Glory*, plus spirituals by Randall Thompson and Shelton E. Kilby III.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 4pm; £8.

REGIONAL
AUDLEY END
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CHELTENHAM
Emerald Chamber Players
 Elgar's *Serenade* and other works for strings.
Pittville Pump Room, Albert Road (01242 227 979). Tonight, 8pm; £10-£15.

OXFORD
Oxford Company of Musicians
 Featuring Schubert's String trio movement.
Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street (01865 261 334). Tonight, 8pm; £8.

JAZZ

LONDON
Jam Session #4
 All-star Acid Jazz jam featuring Hammond wizard James Taylor, soul diva Dee C. Lee, Brand New Heavies guitarist Simon Bartholomew, Mother Earth bassist Neil Corcoran.
Jazz Cafe, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 7pm; £8.

Lee Konitz Quintet
 Chicago-born titan of bebop, whose cerebral alto styles have graced Gerry Mulligan, Stan Kenton, Miles Davis and Chet Baker recordings.
The Rhythmic, Chapel Market, N1 (0171-713 5859). Tonight, 8pm; £10.

Byron Wallen/Duncan Mackay and the Vortex Quartet
 Streetwise fusion trumpeter Wallen and mainstream Brit-jazzer Mackay open the Vortex Trumpet Festival, with John Paricelli and Huw Warren's house band.
Vortex, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 6516). Tonight, 8pm; £7.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

MOSE ALLISON
 A musician's musician, Mose Allison is the subject of a new tribute album by Van Morrison, out next month (September 16). In the meantime, the Mississippi-born singer-songwriter unfurls his idiosyncratic songs and equally off-beat piano solos in his residency at the newly refurbished and re-named Pizza Express Jazz Club.

Pizza Express, Dean Street, London W1 (0171-439 8722). Tonight, from 9pm.



London, Jazz Cafe: jam session featuring soul diva Dee C. Lee

REGIONAL
GLASGOW
Craig McMurdo and the Swing Kings
 Lounge lizard plays Sinatra, Bacharach and Louis Prima.
Bourbon Street, George Street (0141-552 0141). Tonight, 9pm; free.

HULL
International Jazz Festival
 Featuring trumpeter Guy Barker's International Quintet (5pm), plus streetwise American tenorist Jean Toussaint who features trumpeter Byron Wallen and guitarist Tony Remy (8pm).
Royal Hotel, Fensway (01482 226 655). Tomorrow, £7, £5, concs £3 for 8pm concert only.

OXFORD
Jon Corbett/Simon Dore
 Peter McPhail/Tony Moore
 Improvised music duets for trumpet and guitar, plus a sax and cello pairing.
Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street (01865 261 384). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £5.

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New release: Flipper

◆ The Truth about Cats and Dogs (15)
 Romantic comedy about mistaken identity, with Janeane Garofalo, Uma Thurman and Ben Chaplin.
Michael Lehmann directs.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ Twister (PG)
 Cardboard characters chase tornadoes. Great special effects, but repetition softens the impact.
With Helen Hunt and Bill Paxton. Director, **Jan De Bont**.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

FILMS

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ●) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

Blood Simple (18)
 Welcome revival of the Coen brothers' debut feature.
With John Getz and Francis McDormand.
Gate (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-437 8402) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

◆ Flipper (PG)
 A surly teenager develops a relationship with a dolphin. Unimaginative family film, with Elijah Wood and Paul Hogan. Director, **Alan Shapiro**.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888 990) **Virgin Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

◆ JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (U)
 Misadventured James finds his feet in an overseas peach voyaging across the Atlantic. Excellent version of Roald Dahl's first book for children, made with the stop-motion animation technique by the team behind *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Director, **Henry Selick**.

GEORGE BROWN
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **West End** (01426-915 574) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgin Chelsea** (0171-352 5096)

La Regle du Jeu (PG)
 New print of Renoir's 1939 masterpiece, a wonderful portrait of French society.
With Marcel Dalio.
Riverside (0181-748 3354)

CURRENT

◆ The Hunchback of Notre Dame (U)
 Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse, and perversely successful, mix of the cuddly and downbeat. Directors, **Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise**.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Ritz** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ Mission: Impossible (PG)
 Rousing set-pieces dwarf the stars, even Tom Cruise's special agent, in this enjoyable revival of the television series.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Empire** (0990 888 990) **MGM Haymarket** (0171-434 0031) **Trocadero** (0171-370 2636)

Ruth Gledhill

Benefit

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GOING OUT

13

COMEDY

LONDON
Back 2 Back — Ian Stone and Mark Maier
 Two of the best Edinburgh preview shows: "The Cheek of Ian Stone" and "Get Off with Mark Maier".
Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £8, concs £5.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

SHORT BAC AND SIDES
 Battersea Arts Centre is once again the place to be for the last big week of warm-ups before the Edinburgh Festival. Tonight or tomorrow you can cram in the gossipy Girls with Big Jests, Owen O'Neill remembering his childhood in Co Tyrone, and the perky lad Paul Tonkinson. Also, tonight only, the Emmy award-winning American stand-up Rich Hall. Later in the week, veteran Arnold Brown, Mark Thomas and Jeff Green, the bloke with cute sparkle.

KATE BASSETT
Battersea Arts Centre, 176 Lavender Hill, Battersea (0171-223 2223). Call for details.

COMEDY STORE: BEST IN STAND-UP

This evening's comedy line-up includes Rhona Cameron, Boothby Graffoe, Jo Caulfield and Sean Percival. Lee Hurst MCs.

Comedy Store, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914 433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight; £10.

Comedy Store Players
 Television-friendly line-up with Lee Simpson, Josie Lawrence, Paul Merton, Richard Vranich, Jim Sweeney and Neil Mullarkey.



Lee Evans, the star of *Funny Bones*, indulges in further face-pulling antics at the Gielgud Theatre

Comedy Store, Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914 433). Tomorrow, 8pm; £10.

East Dulwich Tavern
 Featuring Mark Maier's assertive "Get Off" techniques and the Wow Show with "The Trials of the Wow Show".
East Dulwich Tavern.

Lordship Lane, SE22 (0181-244 4138). Tonight, 9pm; £5, concs £4.

Gigglesfest — Edinburgh
 Preview Season
 Adam Bloom, plus Andrew Pipe's mind candy.
The Hen and Chickens Theatre Bar, St Paul's Road, NI (0171-704

2001). Tonight, 8pm. (Andrew Pipe) 9.30pm (Andrew Bloom); £5 per performance, concs £4.

Lee Evans
 Star of *Funny Bones* in further face-pulling antics.
Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Tomorrow, 8pm; £7.50-£17.50.

Lark in the Park
 The annual chuckle time with Ha Bloody Ha under tarpaulin cover in Walpole Park.
Festival Tent at Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, W5 (0181-566 4067). Tonight, 8.30pm; £7, adv £6.

REGIONAL

CHESTER
Alexander's Comedy
 Les Keen, Roger Monkhouse and the Moira Stewart Brothers.
Alexander's Jazz Cafe Bar, Rufus Court (01244 340005/313400). Tonight, 9pm; £5.

EDINBURGH
McBrier and Mackay
 Nothing to Lose But Your Ankle Clasp
 With comic double duo Martha McBrier and Jane Mackay.
Christie's, West Port, Grassmarket (0131-229 4553). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £4, concs £3.

Hovis Presley: Poetic Off-Licence
 Home-baked flavoured comedy from the would-be king.
The Stand, Dylan Moran, Jane Mackay and Reg Anderson.
The Moscow Bar, 6 South St David Street (0131-556 6375). Presley: tomorrow, 7.30pm; £4, concs £3. The Stand: tomorrow, 11pm; £5, concs £4.

MANCHESTER
Barrel of Laughs at the Frog and Bucket
 Brian Higgins and Lewis Albertson share the spotlight.
The Frog and Bucket Comedy Club and Theatre, Oldham Street (0161-236 9805). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; phone for ticket prices.

COMING SOON

LONDON
Sept 4-14
A Midsummer Night's Dream
 A Japanese production by the celebrated Ninagawa Company, first seen in 1995, comes to the Mermaid Theatre for 12 performances only.
 Box office: 0171-236 2211.

From Sept 7

Faust
 Michael Bogdanov's two-part production of Goethe's epic transfers from Stratford-upon-Avon to the Pit at the Barbican. Box office: 0171-638 8591.

Sept 9-Oct 26

National Theatre
 Booking for these dates now open by post only. New productions include Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist*, starring Simon Callow. Box Office, National Theatre, London SE1 9PX or phone (from Aug 19) 0171-428 2252.

From Oct 1
Laughter on the 23rd Floor
 Gene Wilder makes his

British stage debut in Neil Simon's comedy at the Queen's Theatre (box office: 0171-494 5590). Prior to London, the production will tour to Guildford (01483 440000; Aug 12-24), Bath (01225 448844; Sept 2-7), Richmond (0181-440 0088; Sept 9-14), Norwich (01603 630000; Sept 16-21) and Brighton (01273 328488; Sept 23-28).

REGIONAL

BILLINGHAM
Aug 10-17
International Folklore Festival
 Groups from Argentina, Latvia, Poland, Togo, Spain, Brazil and Britain.
Forum Theatre, Box office: 01642 552663.

CHELMSFORD

Aug 18
Paul Weller
 Top billing in a concert that includes appearances by the Charlatans, Lightning Seeds, Shed Seven, Incognito and the Mike Flowers Pop at Hylands Park. Box office: 0171-287 0932/0171-344 4444.



Paul Weller tops the bill in Chelmsford on August 18

DANCE

LONDON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ROYAL BALLET: SWAN LAKE

The end of the Royal Ballet's 1995-96 season is also the final performance by Viviana Durante, who is taking the next year off to pursue interests outside the world of dance. Her partner tonight, William Trevitt, is a last-minute replacement for an injured Bruce Sanzoni. The matinee performance features Miyako Yoshida and Stuart Cassidy in Anthony Dowell's overdesigned production.

DEBRA CRAINE

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 2pm, 7pm; £2-£58.50.

Blitz '96: Community Spirit

Community dance group from Essex perform a range of works including commissioned pieces from Jamie Watson and Rachel Atfield.

Ballroom, Main Foyer, Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today, 1.15pm-2.15pm; free.

Blitz '96: Random Dance Company

Acclaimed cutting edge dance company performing clips from *Jacob's Ladder*.

Ballroom, Main Foyer, Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 6pm-7pm; free.

Blitz '96:

Tap Showcase
 This and last year's winning performances previously seen at the acclaimed Marjorie Davies Star Tap Awards.
Ballroom, Main Foyer, Festival Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 1.30pm-2.15pm and 6.45pm-7.30pm; free.



London: Random Dance

Jonzi D: Lyrical Feats
 Dance theatre performance focusing on British young, black males with live music and mime.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (0181-741 2255). Tonight, 8pm; £5, concs £6.

REGIONAL

ABERDEEN
Saiga Ballet of Tokyo and Aberdeen Academy of Dance
 Excerpts from *Pinochio*, *The Nutcracker* and *Thumbelina* are performed in a daytime show for children by Aberdeen

International Youth Festival, Aberdeen Arts Centre, King Street (01224 635 208). Today, 3pm; £4.50, concs £3.50, family £14.

LIVERPOOL

Momentary Fusion: Stage
 Ethereal dance performance using spotlights and radio mics to echo the dancers' breathing and movement.
Bluecoat Arts Centre, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane (0151-709 5297). Tonight, 8pm; £6, concs £4.

OPERA

LONDON
Don Giovanni
 The European Chamber Opera stages Mozart's black comedy.
Holland Park Theatre, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-602 7856). Tonight, 7.30pm, mat, 2.30pm; £20, concs £14.50.

Don Giovanni
 First Act Opera stages Mozart's black comedy.
Chiswick House, Burlington Lane (0181-577 0469). Tomorrow, 7pm; £10, concs £7.50.

REGIONAL

BELSAI
The Pearl Fishers
 Opera Box's lavishly costumed, outdoor production of Bizet's popular work. Sung in English.
Belsai Hall, (01601 881 636). Tomorrow, 7pm; £20, concs £16.

CONGLETON
Madame Butterfly
 Clonter Opera Farm produce Puccini's classic tragic-drama.
Clonter Opera Farm, (01260 224 514). Tonight, 7pm; £25 and £28.

LEWES

Arabella
 Diedrich Bernet conducts John Cox's production of Strauss's and Hofmannsthal's final collaboration.
Glyndebourne Opera House, (01273 813 813). Tomorrow, 4.15pm; £10-£110.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

EUGENE ONEGIN
 Last but not one chance to catch the immortal Gennadi Rozhdestvensky conducting Graham Vick's exemplary production of Tchaikovsky's "Lyric Scenes", with Elena Prokina and Wojciech Drabowicz superb as the doomed lovers reaching out across time for "happiness that was once so near" to heart-rending effect. If you can wangle seats — always worth a last-minute try — a strategically placed hankie is the next essential.

RODNEY MILNES
Glyndebourne, near Lewes, East Sussex (01273 813 813). Tonight, 5.10pm; £10-£110.

THEATRE

LONDON
Hedda Gabler
 A chance for London to see Alexandra Gilbreath's acclaimed performance in

Stephen Urwin's production for English Touring Theatre.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1733). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 4pm.

Murder in the Cathedral
 Performed in Romanian, but to judge by Art-Inter Odeon's last production seen here, the magnificent Richard III, with the same director and actor (Mihai Maniutu, Marcel Iurea), language will be no bar to a powerful experience.

Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Tonight, 8pm.

Roll with the Punches
 Belinda Lang, George Costigan and Paul J. Medford in an enjoyable musical woven from the songs of Randy Newman. Chris Bond directs.
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Rd, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 4pm.

Two Boys in a Bed on a Cold Winter's Night
 London premiere for James Edwin Parker's New York success: the dynamics of the one night stand, directed by Julian Woolford. Described as "wickedly biting".
Arts, Great Newport St, WC2 (0171-836 3334). Tonight, 7pm and 9.15pm.

Voyeurz
 Loud, titillating and vacuous rock show, mostly about lesbians in New York.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1733). Tonight, 7pm and 9.15pm.

REGIONAL

CRITIC'S CHOICE

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED
 Jude Kelly has come from the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds, to direct J.B. Priestley's classic farce about the respectable trio who discover on their silver wedding anniversary that they were never properly married. Her production sometimes substitutes broad strokes for witty detail, but she gets hilarious performances from Leo McKern as the most solemnly bleary of drunks, Dora Bryan as a dim, gossipy char, and especially Dawn French as one of the mythical beasts of Yorkshire lore: a massive, bullying wife who steps up her prey like an Amazonian warrior, then advances on it like a blend of sumo wrestler, Texas gunslinger and white rhino.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
Festival Theatre, Chichester (01243 781 312). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

GUILDFORD
An Old Man's Love
 Clive Swift stars in Anthony Trollope's poignant and amusing tale, in which a fifty-something bachelor falls in love with the orphaned daughter of his best friend. With Vilma Hollingbery.
 Adapted and directed by Michael Napier Brown.

WALPOLE FESTIVAL
 Bonanza festival featuring stalls, side shows and a funfair.
Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, W5 (0181-758 5743). Today, tomorrow, 11.30am-6pm; free.

REGIONAL

CARDIFF
Cardiff Summer Festival '96
 Street entertainment extravaganza including live bands, circus performances and comedy.
Cardiff Summer Festival Information, (01222 871 922). Today.

Yvonne Arnaud, Millbrook (01483 440 000). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

LIVERPOOL

Dealer's Choice
 Patrick Marber directs his award-winning play in a National Theatre touring production: a savage comedy about the dreams and obsessions of compulsive gamblers.
Everyman, Hope Street (0151-709 4776). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 4pm.

OXFORD

Hamlet
 The 26-year-old Ian Pepperell plays the Prince in a Playhouse production, directed by John Retailack and Karl James.
Rose, St Aldate's (01865 798 600). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.



London: Hedda Gabler

FAIRS

LONDON
Discover Dogs in London
 Festival to celebrate all kinds of dogs and their owners from the average mutt on the street to the rare breed.
Earls Court 2, Warwick Road, SW5 (0171-244 0950). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £7, concs £4.

Streets of London Festival
 The best in street theatre, this weekend's highlights include Cirque du Birque, Butch the Ballerina and Bell and Bullock, plus free circus skills workshops (today), Wyrd Arts (tomorrow).
Streets of London Festival Information, various venues, Canary Wharf, E14 (information line 01723 821 588). Today, tomorrow, times vary.

Walpole Festival Roadshows
 Bonanza festival featuring stalls, side shows and a funfair.
Walpole Park, Mattock Lane, W5 (0181-758 5743). Today, tomorrow, 11.30am-6pm; free.

REGIONAL
CARDIFF
Cardiff Summer Festival '96
 Street entertainment extravaganza including live bands, circus performances and comedy.
Cardiff Summer Festival Information, (01222 871 922). Today.

Ruth Gledhill feels it is easy to attach the wrong label to church services

Benefits of a holy trinity



STEREOTYPED labels can be easily attached to many churches. In an age of increasing diversity and division, tempting definitions such as liberal, traditionalist and evangelical come all too readily to hand and no one has come up with better alternatives. But these labels can be inappropriate or simply wrong.

I had St Margaret's summed up, inappropriately as it turned out, within seconds of walking through the door. We were not unseen by worshippers deep in prayer (traditionalist) nor ignored by a congregation faintly embarrassed that someone new had walked in (liberal). Instead, a friendly woman stretched out her hand and, even though we were late and the vicar, dressed in pale blue, was speaking from the lectern, she left her seat to hand us a service sheet, a "song book" and showed us where to sit.

which more than 60 people now show up. For the middle-of-the-roadsers, there is a less formal *Home Family* service, using the 1980 *Alternative Service Book*. More than 130, including children, come to that. And for the charismatic evangelicals, at 6.30pm there is an even more informal service, attracting 60 people.

Overall attendance has increased by 25 per cent during the past year. Some worshippers go to all three services, others alternate. Most choose one, which in itself can contain elements of all three. For the first time, I began to understand the Christian concept of the Trinity.

Notices attached to the columns

AT YOUR SERVICE
 ★ A five-star guide ★
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: The Rev John Guest
ARCHITECTURE: Begun in 1184 with additions and alterations through the centuries. Beautiful 13th-century Purbeck marble font ★★★★★
SERMON: "Both as individuals and as a church, we must admit, confess and turn away from sin," said Janet Bacon, church member and regular preacher. ★★★★★
LITURGY: Modern communion service ★★★★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee and tea served from an urn transported into church ★★★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: From high to low and back again. ★★★★★

indicated the subject of our intercessory prayer — Atlanta, Burundi, Argentina and two church members called Bob and Allison. Worshippers raised hands and swayed to music as our songs progressed, led by a music group with singers and clarinetist. They looked happy, but we did not clap. We sat on wooden chairs, but again this was not the trendy-vicar innovation it appeared. For the pews had been removed at the turn of the century and the chairs were in fact nearly 100 years old.

We had a "dramatic reading" from Joshua, the different "parts" played by two teenage boys and a woman. This concerned the ancient warrior's attempt to take the city Al after the capture of Jericho, and his failure to do so. The surprising defeat was ascribed to the theft of gold, silver and Babylonian robe from the plunder of previous victories by an unfortunate character called Achan. As punishment he and his family were stoned to death.

This horrible story is rarely told in church but at the evening service Mr Guest was tackling the entire book of Joshua. After intercessions by Alison Prowse, the music director, with a period of silent prayer at the end, Mr Guest presided at the Eucharist. There was further meditative silence and a closing hymn, but it was nearly 9pm before the last worshipper left the church, many lingering on to pray, chat or simply have a cup of tea to bring their weekends to a close. St Margaret's parish church, Stamford Close, Essex SS17 0EP (01775 672371)

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111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481, 483, 485, 487, 489, 491, 493, 495, 497, 499, 501, 503, 505, 507, 509, 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SHOPPING

15

Everything baby needs including a family tree

The birthrate boom has boosted sales of clothes and toys but presents for the new arrival needn't be boring — and don't forget the mother

In anticipation of the birth of Marie Antoinette's first child in the winter of 1778, 201 aristocratic families took up residence at Versailles to celebrate the great event. And when the King's daughter arrived (and she was only a girl), the people nonetheless celebrated by ripping up the parquet floor of the palace to make bonfires.

If only they had had Baby Gap in the *ancien régime*, they could have sent a box of cotton rompers with matching socks, sparing themselves the expense of relocation and the Queen much unwelcome housekeeping.

In the summer of 1996, we are in the grip of a baby-present boom, brought on by a jump in the birthrate following last October's Pili scare. While there is nothing wrong with the usual presents of flowers for the mother and clothing or a soft toy for the new baby, there are more enduring alternatives. You could consider something living to celebrate new life: a tree or a rose bush, for example, can cost less than a bouquet and will not wither in a week.

An apple tree, a cox's pipin perhaps, or an egremont russet if the child is red-haired, can be planted in the first year, and by the time the child can reach up to the branches, he or she will be able to pick fruit from their own tree. If the parents have a large garden, you might consider a maple, the jade-striped *Acer pensylvanicum* or *Acer griseum*, the bark of which peels to reveal a beautiful cinnamon-coloured under bark.

The symbolic oak is hard to resist, but few will have the space: it might be possible, however, to gain permission

from a local council to plant a tree in an open space, where the child can visit the oak as it grows. If you make a present of a growing thing, it's a good idea to offer to plant it, since the last thing new parents need is more work.

Rather than buying a velvet penguin or acrylic tiger for the newborn to ignore for two years, why not adopt the real thing on the child's behalf? You can defer the adoption until the child is old enough to appreciate the animal, when they'll be able to visit the zoo and read their name on a plaque — a thrill in itself, according to nine-year-old Peter Ditchfield of Bridge-water, Somerset, who has a part-share in a Sumatran tiger at Bristol Zoo. For the same cost (£20) his 11-year-old sister, Gemma, is adoptive parent to a prairie dog for a year.

The list of adoptable animals and birds is long and tempting: what about a parrot at the World Parrot Trust at Paradise Park, Hayle, Cornwall, or a rare butterfly? Ring the Zoo Federation for a list of the many zoos that run adoption schemes.

Many mothers say they love to receive anthologies as birth presents: they are not immediately useful but become invaluable quite soon and last in the child's imagination forever. Some of the best are *The Book of Nonsense Verse* selected and illustrated by Quentin Blake (£12.99) from Viking; *The Oxford Book of Children's Verse* (£17.95) or *Children's Stories* (£16.99) and the appropriately named *Treasury*

of *Children's Literature* (£19.99) from Hutchinson.

If you do decide to contribute to the endless list of baby accoutrements now considered essential, you could give the ordinary in extraordinary quantity: a dozen plain white

order company, makes simple, good-quality children's clothes and will deliver a gift-wrapped, batiste cotton smocked baby's nightie for £24 plus postage and packing.

What about a present for the new mother? For the first days, an excellent alternative to flowers is a basket of fresh muffins, brownies and chocolate chip cookies (from £29) from the Beverly Hills Bakery which delivers to most of the UK.

A huge bunch of 5ft sunflowers in summer or a basket of snowdrops in winter will always be welcome, but they don't last and they are unlikely to be the only flowers a mother receives. What a woman with a new baby needs is something to relieve domestic chores or to make her feel beautiful. This comes down to extreme luxury or extreme practicality in a present.

If you like the idea of offering practical help, you could send smoked salmon with champagne and a stack of ready-made Marks & Spencer meals, or engage a spring-cleaner for a few hours, relieving her of the tedium of cleaning in the early weeks; or

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SUSAN SWIFT

The QUENTIN BLAKE BOOK OF NONSENSE VERSE



SELECTED AND ILLUSTRATED BY QUENTIN BLAKE

Read with Mother: above, *The Quentin Blake Book of Nonsense Verse* (Viking, £12.99) will soon come in useful

Left: make up for the long and hard nine months of abstinence with a bottle of De Saint Gaul champagne, £18.99, Sevruga caviar, £21.50, vodka, £9.99, smoked salmon, £2.99, all from branches of Marks & Spencer

FACT FILE

Nurseries

Tweedie Fruit Trees, Maryfield Road Nursery, Terregles, Dumfries (01387 720880 for mail order), Scots Nurseries, Merriot, Somerset (01460 72306), Notcutt's Garden Centre, Woodbridge, Suffolk (01394 445400), Hilliers, Ampfield House, Ampfield, Romsey, Hants (01794 365733), Dickslands Garden Centre, 244-246 Ratcliff Lane, London E14 7JE (0171-790 1146).

Zoo

The Zoo Federation, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY (0171-586 1230 for a list of member zoos).

Deliveries

Baby & Co, 12A Wetherby Gardens, London SW5 0JW (0171-873 0674), Mini Boden, 4 Pembroke Buildings, Cumberland Park, Scrubs Lane, London NW10 6RE (0181-964 2662), Beverly Hills Bakery and Gift Baskets, 3 Egerton Terrace, London SW3 2BX (0171-584 4401).

Shops

The Nursery Window, 83 Walton Street, London SW3 2HP (0171-581 3358), Marks & Spencer, branches nationwide. Harrods, Brompton Road, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-730 1234).

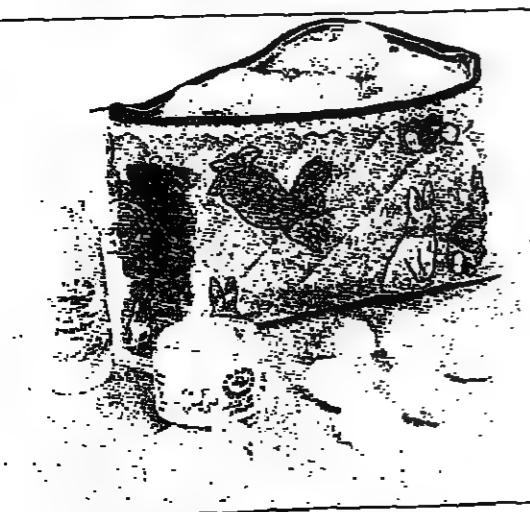
Gwent rose tree, £27, Docklands Garden Centre; trees bearing Christian names also for sale at garden centres



Bear cot quilt from The Nursery Window, £45



Snuggle up with the Animal Fair pram quilt from The Nursery Window, £26.50



Rabbit sponge bag, £14. The Nursery Window; cream £2.15 and powder, £2.80. Baby & Co

Right: Prunus Amagawa fruit tree, £27, from the Docklands Garden Centre



London's treasure trove of colonial furniture has come up trumps with its mail-order service

Why Pukka Palace is all the Raj

If you have ever yearned for a room redolent of the Raj, head not for Simla nor New Delhi, but for Tower Bridge Road, London. There you will find Pukka Palace — three storeys of colonial and colonial-inspired furniture, fabrics and accessories at surprisingly reasonable prices.

The staircase is hung with prints and paintings from Stubbs-style, horsey oil paintings (£325) bringing memories of country house life to the most remote hill station, to prints of Indian soldiers, like the Bengal Lancer (£90).

The first floor is packed with cotton fabrics, most of them handloomed — plain cotton in checks, stripes and herringbone, gemstone colours, fruit and spice colours and plain dyes from £9.95 per metre, hand-embroidered crewel (£18.40/m), natural linen (£19.95/m), linen satins (£20.95/m), Seersucker (£10.95/m) and Chambray (£9.95/m) which come ready-made into bed and table linen and by the metre, or can be made up to order into cushion covers, bedspreads and throws.

You can even see the fabrics in the setting for which you intend them by

ordering samples of 140 fabrics for a returnable deposit of £10. There are thin cotton quilts, with small checks on one side and large on the other (double £75), and white cotton quilts (double £117.50), perfect for summer nights.

Napery ranges from a casual small period/sand check tablecloth (140cm square) and four napkins

ordering samples of 140 fabrics for a returnable deposit of £10. There are thin cotton quilts, with small checks on one side and large on the other (double £75), and white cotton quilts (double £117.50), perfect for summer nights.

The piece de resistance, however, is a glorious four-

poster bed, with decorative panels of tiles and mirrors at head and base (£2,500). The third floor is a treasure trove of garden furniture and home accessories — the Gothic metal chair with a cushion is £122. Also look at old-fashioned leather suitcases in natural leather (large £165) and fabulous carved frames (from £69) for paintings or mirrors.

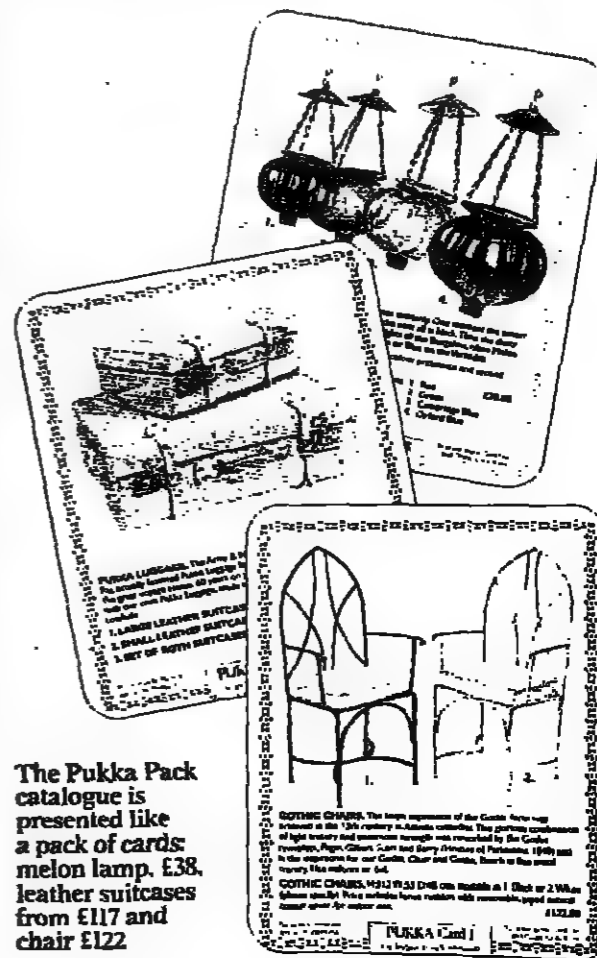
To cast light on the proceedings, choose a simple six-candle chandelier in wrought iron (£68), or a traditional glass melon lamp for just £38, in green, red cobalt, turquoise or clear.

Pukka Palace launched its mail-order service through the Pukka Pack last month, a catalogue of 150 products presented like a pack of playing cards and illustrated with exquisite colour drawings. So, for sybaritic shopping, shuffle your pack, sling a blue-and-white hammock (£37.50) between a couple of Tamarind trees and call for the cocktail-wallah.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

© Pukka Palace, 174 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 0JW (0171-234 0000, fax 0171-234 0110). Orderline: 0345 666650 or fax 01588 672888; free delivery throughout the UK.

The Pukka Pack catalogue is presented like a pack of cards: melon lamp, £38, leather suitcases from £117 and chair £122



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Impala at sunset on the Mashatu game reserve in Botswana, the heart of a national park which will spread across three countries. It will be home to lion, leopard, cheetah, rhino and 900 elephants, the largest private herd in Africa.

Diamonds make a dream come true

De Beers helped to create Africa's latest national park. Sandy Gall set off on safari to take a look.

To reach the Mashatu Game Reserve in the easternmost corner of Botswana, we had to cross the Limpopo river by cable car, a Heath Robinson contraption which jerks the passenger over the river only a few feet above the crocodiles.

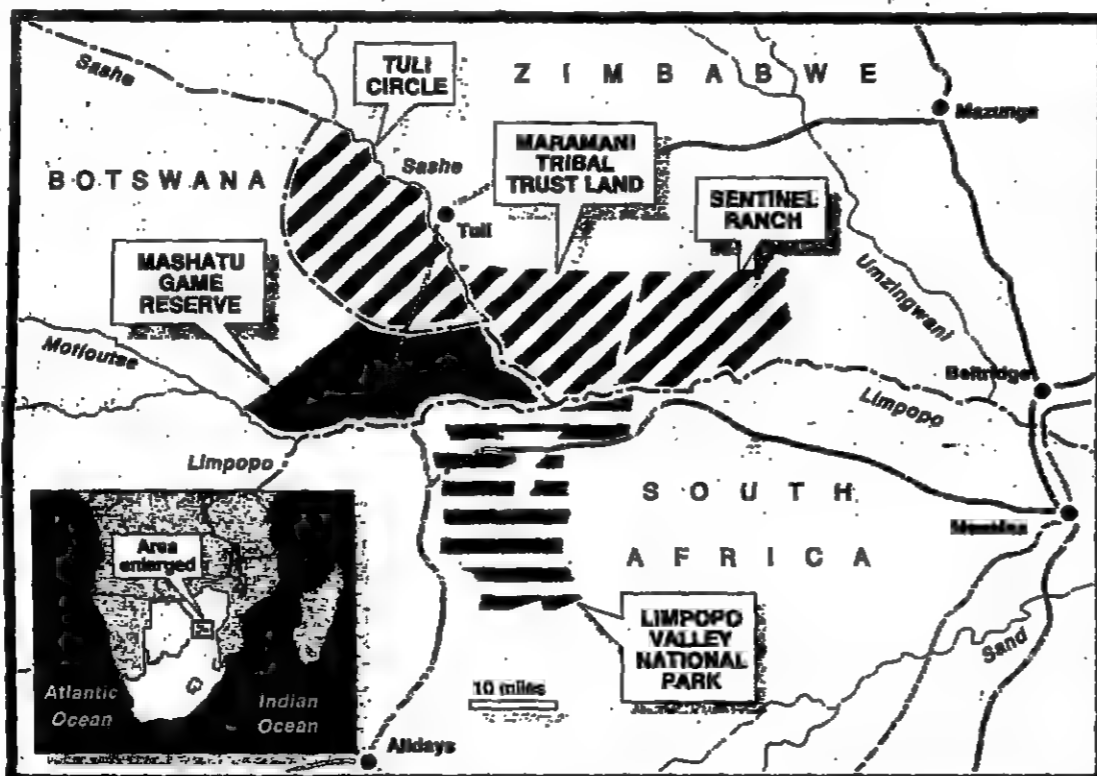
Having survived this adventure, half an hour later we drove into the camp, which seemed to co-exist in perfect harmony with the natural world around us: a woodland kingfisher — a dowdy name for an apparition in lapis lazuli and turquoise — perched tamely 10ft in front of me; and on the lawn beside the bar, a family of warthog, the mother's smile belying her vicious tusks, frolicked charmingly.

As we opened the door of our suite, a monkey scampered off the roof and cheekily swarmed down the tree trunk holding up our veranda. I peered into the bush just in case a lion was waiting to spring. But if it was, the pop of the cork as I opened a bottle of South African wine must have frightened it off.

Next morning after breakfast, our host, Hamish Gillman, introduced us to Fish, one of the rangers. "He says there's a big herd of elephant very close, so he's going to try and find them for us."

I felt the excitement growing as we headed through the rolling grey-green savannah towards the treeline that marks the Moutouze river, a tributary of the Limpopo. It was 10am and the elephants would be moving from the open bush to the forest. Once there, they would be hard to see. Were we too late?

Fish, a Botswanan, who has worked on the 70,000-acre Mashatu reserve for 12 years, suddenly pointed. "Elephant, over there." I swiv-



elled and saw them, the great, grey shapes drifting through the mopane. Then, as quickly, we were right in the middle of them. It was awesome. Not that the elephants showed any aggression, but their sheer size and numbers were intimidating. As we skidded through the dust, one lone bull turned and raised his trunk in ritual threat. There were so many elephants, it would have been easy to run into them, despite the matriarchs trumpeting shrilly to warn us off.

Heat descended. Shade faded. The last group of half a dozen females and a dozen or more youngsters ignored us, already half asleep. It seemed, gliding in slow motion into the cool of a giant fig. I asked Fish, how many there were in the herd. "We see maybe 100, but I think about 200 altogether."

I had come to Mashatu — Land of the Giants in Tswana — not just for the elephants but because it is here, where Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa meet on the banks of

the great, grey-green Limpopo River, as Kipling called it, that a vast new trans-frontier game park is in the making. At 1,581 square miles it will dwarf most other game parks and sustain within its boundaries a herd of 900 elephants concentrated in the Tuli area north of Mashatu — the largest herd on private land in Africa.

It is proposed that the Limpopo Valley park will combine three elements: Mashatu and the Tuli Game Reserve — private and state-owned reserves — in Botswana; the Maramani Tribal Trust Land, which is at present capable only of subsistence agriculture, and the neighbouring Sentinel Ranch in Zimbabwe; and the new Limpopo National Park in South Africa.

The three areas combined will offer visitors a vast and varied area for game-watching, including all of the "big five" — elephant, rhino, lion, leopard and cheetah — some

spectacular scenery, and the chance to see South Africa's most important archaeological site. Having crossed the river again by the precarious cable car, we travelled through the bush for an hour, skirting several cathedral-sized, flat-topped sandstone outcrops which reminded me of a less arid Arizona, until we halted beside the largest and most impressive.

This was where, in 1933, South African archaeologists discovered a small, beautifully-made statuette known as the Golden Rhino of Mapungubwe. This, and several other finely worked gold objects, were found in the grave of a Shona-speaking king who lived nearly 800 years ago.

From 1220, Mapungubwe was the centre of a rich cattle-owning society, trading in gold and ivory with Arabia and India, until it was destroyed by drought in about 1270, when power shifted to Great Zimbabwe, north of the Limpopo.

Dr Richard Leakey, the Kenya

conservationist, has called Mapungubwe "part of the soul of the new South Africa". It also explodes the myth that there was no indigenous civilisation in this part of Africa when the Voortrekkers arrived.

To see the site I had to scramble up an almost vertical rock chimney — guarded by a rock-splitting fig tree, originally named *figus smutit* after General Jan Smuts, the former South African prime minister. Smuts's love of the Limpopo valley led him in 1947 to propose the creation of the Dongola Wildlife Sanctuary, only to see the idea torpedoed by his political opponents a year later. Now, thanks to diamonds, Smuts's dream seems about to become true.

In 1947 Smuts knew about Mapungubwe, but not about Venetia. It was only in 1980 that geologists working for De Beers discovered on Venetia Farm, not far from Mapungubwe, what turned out to be one of the richest diamond mines in the world. As good

FACT FILE

■ The author's visit was organised by Hamish Gillman, of Amrad Leisure, in co-operation with De Beers, and the South African National Parks Board.

■ He travelled with Art Study Tours which specialises in small escorted parties and holiday lets in southern Europe (0171-735-8308 or 01423-330533). He will be leading a 17-day tour to Vietnam from February 17 (£2,900 p.p.). The next 15-day South Africa tour is in September next year.

■ Flights to Johannesburg from Heathrow with South African Airways start at £720.

■ Mashatu Game Reserve is represented in London by Safari Desk, 86/87 Camden Street, London W8 7EN (0171-229 1216, fax 0171-229 1511), which can arrange day trips to Mapungubwe.

■ Venetia Diamond Mine is not open to the public, but Amrad Leisure, of 11 Diagonal Street, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa (00 2711 491 9111, fax 00 2711 836 5136) can arrange visits to game reserves offered by the National Parks Board.

conservationists, De Beers immediately created a nature reserve round the mine, and in 1993 offered it to the government as the nucleus of a new national park. Last year, the South African National Parks Board was authorised to revive the old Dongola project, renamed the Limpopo Valley National Park, with the ultimate aim that it should become a "major component of a trans-frontier national park shared by all three countries". South Africa, like its neighbours, recognises that the benefits, in terms of ecotourism, can be immense.

After inspecting Mapungubwe, we drove along the Limpopo, nearly running over a deadly poisonous black mamba. It was a fearsome-looking snake, 10ft long and travelling like an express train — they say a black mamba can out-distance a horse.

Undaunted, we climbed to the top of a rock, with a superb view over the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe rivers. As we gazed down on the three countries at our feet, two black eagles with white rumps soared along the rock face below us. "What a place for a lodge," I said. "You're looking at the very heart of the new park," Hamish replied.

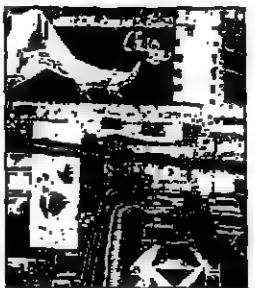
Dr Robbie Robinson, head of South African National Parks, is optimistic. "We have initiated something which is bigger than all of us. It may take five, ten or 15 years, but I believe there will be a trans-frontier park extending across the three countries."

However long it takes, tourists are already making day trips to Mapungubwe from Mashatu; and in the new spirit of trans-frontier co-operation, South Africa has offered to tear down the electrified fence erected along the Limpopo in the bad old days of apartheid.

When that happens, the elephants of Botswana will be free to wander across the Limpopo again, past Mapungubwe and its ancient graves, and beyond.

■ Sandy Gall was a guest of Mashatu Game Reserve, Botswana, De Beers Consolidated Mines, Kimberley, and Amrad Leisure, Johannesburg.

TRAVEL DIRECTORY



THAILAND
Brilliance and bustle in an everyday tale of two cities
PAGE 18



BRITAIN
A wartime evacuee on a poignant return to Cambridgeshire
PAGE 19



CANADA
Harmonica players at home in Nova Scotia
PAGE 20

THE BEST WAY TO SEE AFRICA

■ Timing and climate: Best period for game viewing is between June and October — the dry season. The wettest is January and February.

■ Tour operators: Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe are usually offered by the smaller specialist African operators including Okavango Tours & Safaris (0181-343 3283), Africa Exclusive (01604 28979) and Abercrombie & Kent (0171-730 9600).

They all organise tailor-made groups of four to ten travelling in four-wheel drive Jeeps, canoes and boats, staying in small lodges and luxury tented camps, with long distances covered by light aircraft.

Itineraries include bird-

watching, fishing and boating, elephant, horse and walking safaris as well as whitewater rafting and canoeing on the Zambezi. Overland adventure and trekking firms offer expeditions of between two and five weeks, travelling by coach or expedition vehicles, camping en route or staying in state lodges, with a certain amount of "mucking in". Firms include Exodus Overland Expeditions (0181-675 5550), Explore (01252 319448) and Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611).

Since tours are tailor-made, the cost quoted for Okavango Tours & Safaris is only for guidance: a typical 14-day Zimbabwe & Botswana tour which includes game viewing by vehicle or canoe, interna-



A Kalahari bushman

tional and internal flights, accommodation, most meals, visits to the Victoria Falls, Okavango Delta and the King's Pool in the Linyanti Swamps costs £2,632 per person, with two sharing.

■ Health: The region is malarial; ask your doctor for the anti-malaria pills he advises (not available free on NHS). None are guaranteed effective, and the only way to be safe is not to be bitten; therefore take supplies of mosquito repellent. Hepatitis, typhoid, polio and tetanus immunisations are advisable. Water is usually safe to drink, with warnings when it is not. Many people prefer to stick to water in sealed bottles.

■ Money: US dollars (take some in small denominations)

accepted. You cannot buy Namibian or Zimbabwe dollars or Botswana pula in the UK. Exchange only small amounts on arrival; most tours are fully inclusive, so currency is needed only for tips and small purchases.

■ Passports and visas: Full passports are required. No visas for British subjects, but passports must be valid for six months from date of arrival.

■ Transport: Air Namibia, Air Zimbabwe, British Airways and South African Airways serve the region. There are excellent train services to Victoria Falls, and good local trains. Most traffic is in Jeeps — driving on the right — minibuses and boats. There is free access between the three countries, and South Africa.

■ Accommodation: Hotels in the main cities — Harare, Bulawayo and in Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, Maun and Kasane in Botswana and Windhoek and Swakopmund in Namibia — are of good standard, and cheaper than some bush camps where you stay in tents or bungalows with running water and WC, for about £120 per person per night, if booked individually.

■ Further information: Zimbabwe Tourist Board (0171-836 7755), Botswana Tourist Board (0171-499 0031), Namibia Tourist Board (0171-636 2924).

CHRISTMAS ON THE DANUBE

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Christmas in Central Europe is a very special time and nowhere is this more true than in the cities, towns and villages of the Danube.

Our Christmas cruise along the Danube has been planned to include the possibility of Midnight Mass at the beautiful Baroque Abbey of Melk in the Wachau Valley, concert or opera performances in Vienna and Budapest, music performances by a string quartet on board the vessel, and sightseeing in Vienna, Budapest, Estergom and Bratislava.

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Our vessel the MS Rousse, is a comfortable purpose built river cruise vessel accommodating up to 160



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Prices per person range from £995 for a 2 berth cabin on the Europe deck and from £1145 for a 2 berth cabin on the Danube deck. Single cabins are available from £1250.

Prices subject to availability. Ports subject to change. Price includes: Scheduled flight London-Vienna-London, 7 nights aboard the MS Rousse on full board; breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and midnight buffet, transfers, port taxes, UK departure tax, music aboard the Rousse.

Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, music and excursions ashore, tips to ship's crew.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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Thailand: Luxury hotels and shanty homes create a mixture of the old, the new and the unpredictable

Temples, tribes and traffic jams

The view from the swimming pools of two luxury hotels told me a lot about Thailand. The first hotel was in the capital, Bangkok; the second 450 miles to the northwest in Chiang Mai.

On my back, I pushed lazily away from the deep end of the Bangkok pool, emerging from beneath palm fronds to a frightening sight. A gigantic crane rotated a mass of building materials above my head. For one chilling moment I thought it might drop.

Everywhere in Bangkok there is frantic construction. Great concrete blocks spring up all over the place, with no detectable logic or plan. The result is a heady mixture of the old, new and unpredictable. My hotel room overlooked a street jammed with cars at all waking hours and, above the street, the skeletal spars of an elevated railway which, when it's finished, may do something to ease the jams.

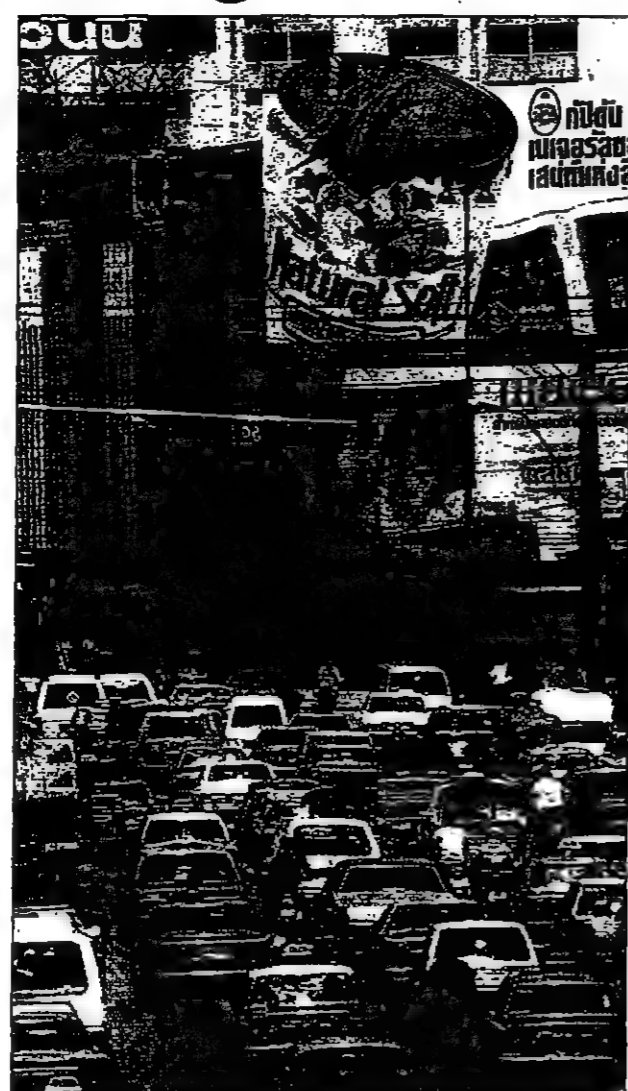
The skyline along the river Chao Praya, too, mixes old and new. Gleaming, golden Buddhist temples jostle with vast hotels. The spaces between are filled with teetering shacks. Every square inch is occupied, or so it seems. The tributaries off the river are even more densely packed with ramshackle homes. Here trinket sellers lurk in boats, or in the water itself.

Wherever you go there is a constant bustle of enterprise, from the rich in their Mercedes to the poor up to their chins in water.

Nobody seems to know how many people live in Bangkok. Is it six million or eight? Whatever the number, and you can't help believing the highest you hear, the flood of people from the countryside accounts for this furious buying and selling.

What I soon found I liked most about the past that lingers here is not a temple, mosque or palace, but the courtesy of the people. Here I was in the Regent Hotel where every imaginable luxury, comfort and modern convenience is available. The decor is impeccable, the abundant flowers stunning in their variety, service is round the clock and the food first-class. I recommend a Thai dinner in the Spice Market restaurant.

What I relished above all



Bangkok is crammed with traffic around the clock

was the manner of service. Without any sense of servility, the staff sink to their knees when you issue your order from a low-slung chair in the bar, and at every opportunity — when they open a door or take your luggage — they accompany their actions with a sweet salute: hands steeped together beneath the chin, a broad smile, a deep bow.

Is it the mellowing influence of Buddhism, the shrines and images of which are thick even in the poorest places? I don't know, but hope that Thai graciousness is never buried beneath Bangkok's concrete and bustle.

So on to my second pool with a view, at the Regent Resort Hotel near Chiang Mai, the principal city in northwest Thailand. From the



deep end I looked down on a flooded rice field at the end of which a water buffalo grazed. Beyond, green hills rolled gently away towards mountains. Embracing the rice field in a half circle are the hotel

buildings, suites of rooms set in groups of four on two floors. Elbows on the rim of the pool, drink at hand, I watched rain clouds sweep across the mountains in the distance, shafts of sunlight piercing the murk. When the sun goes down, frogs and insects set up a deafening clamour.

The hotel is a pinnacle of luxury, contained in what looked to me like a series of exotic temples, but which, I was assured, are authentic Thai architecture. Shangri-La passes through the mind.

Among the expeditions was one to an elephant training school. Exactly what the elephants are being trained for I am not sure, but they go through their paces for the tourists, lining up in order of size, like those ivory carvings that used to be on mantelpieces. The elephants lie in the river and stand up again. They give their mahouts a step up to their backs with their forelegs. They pile logs with their trunks. And they give us a ride, two to an elephant — slow, lurching and slightly scary.

The elephants are managed by Karen tribesmen. They let us off at the settlement of another tribe, the Lisu. Pigs and piglets slumbered all over the place; hens and chickens pecked and clucked. A small girl attended to her weaving. Every second house had a shop attached. Apart from one

FACT FILE

■ **Thai Airways** (0171-499 9113/0161-831 7861) flies daily from London to Bangkok, arriving early the next morning. The return fare this month and next is from £1,071. London-Bangkok-Chiang Mai-London costs from £1,113. The Discover Thailand fare (covering four domestic sectors within Thailand) is £170.

■ **Simply Tropix** (0181-875 1777) offers a package deal for two nights at the Regent Hotel in Bangkok and five at the Regent Resort in Chiang Mai from £1,094 per person, including return fares and flights within Thailand.

man, who scuttled away, the village seemed to be entirely occupied by females, dressed in colourful tribal costume. We moved on to Muang Chiang Rai, where Thailand meets Laos and Burma at the Mekong river. We took a boat trip and I imagined myself doing something brave in the Vietnam War. When we stepped ashore I bought a plate printed with the words

"Golden Triangle" and a picture of me stepping on to the boat 40 minutes earlier. Later I bought some designer-label T-shirts in the night market at Chiang Mai. They were fakes and cost almost nothing. I also had a jacket made in cashmere by a tailor, who ran it up overnight for £80.

In the Golden Triangle we met the Yao and Lomi tribes who tried to sell us waistcoats. They have strange customs. Yao women are worn more as brides if they have had children: it proves their fertility. The Lomi have been weaned off their habits of washing only once a year and of killing newborn twins: now the twins are given for adoption.

Do I believe these tales? Or have they been invented to titillate the tourists? I started to think that as soon as we left the village. I imagined the tribespeople laughing behind our backs, throwing off their colourful costumes, shutting up their shops and getting out their jeans and televisions. And then I saw, at the entrance to the Lomi village, a dog which had been skinned and skewered to a platform. Whether or not this had the effect desired of frightening off evil spirits I don't know, but it certainly rattled me.

I found myself wondering what, say, the average local councillor in Britain would make of these things. He or she would, I suppose, ban the performing elephants on grounds of cruelty, and substi-

dise the tribes in their ways on grounds of ethnic rights. My inclinations would be the opposite. The elephants seem content but the tribespeople a bit miserable. Is there anything to be said for preserving a lifestyle that brings a life expectancy of 55?

Thank heaven I don't have to decide these things. For me the diversity of Thailand — its courtesy, hearty, strangeness,

energy — is its charm. And it is smart of the travel industry to have realised that there is more to holidays than lounging in the sun and to have opened up remote, exotic places without sacrificing an ounce of comfort.

ERIC JACOBS

● The author was a guest of Thai Airways and Regent International Hotels



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TRAVEL

19

Britain: A personal voyage of rediscovery and reminiscence in the village of Barnack, Cambridgeshire

The return of the wartime evacuee

Handwritten note in a book:
 Ted & Monica Lottimer Bourneville Birmingham Family History
 Gerald Isaaman, London - Wartime evacuee here
 The very first church I ever
 entered!
 Rev + Mrs Simpson Southam Norfolk

Gerald Isaaman adds a poignant entry to the St John the Baptist visitors' book

Scratch a patch of Britain and often you will find something of fascination from the hides of history — and sometimes you can find a trace of your personal past. Take the Great North Road out of London, what they call the A1 today, and 90 miles down the track turn right into Stamford, which deserves the epithets heaped upon it. "If there is a more beautiful town in the whole of England I have yet to see it," wrote W. G. Hoskins. But resist the temptation to linger, and continue instead to the village of Barnack, in the short drive passing the romantic turrets of Burghley House, the 240-room mansion of the mighty Cecils and now a showplace of Elizabethan power, the estate being the venue for a host of major equestrian events.

Barnack has its own niche in history — and in mine. It appears as Beonica in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles, becomes Bernake by 1052, half a century after the marauding Danes had savaged East Anglia, and by Domesday is Bernac, the name apparently deriving from the Anglo-Saxon for Warriors' Oak, where military magnates met for law-making and giving justice. There were Lords of the Manor such as Hugh de Bernak and Ralph de Barnack, whose coat of arms was a shield bearing three barnacles, before that acquisitive neighbour Lord Burghley, treasurer to Queen Elizabeth, took over and then, through his line, to the present Marquis of Exeter.

My appearance in that panoply of dates was more than half a century ago, at the outbreak of war, in 1939. I arrived in Barnack with my three sisters as evacuees from London, lost, tired kids who had never seen the country before, ordered by their moth-



The young Gerald (front right) poses with his family

er not to allow themselves to be split up, no matter what. So it was that we sat and shuffled until the village hall was empty, except for us, until farmer Bradshaw from the hamlet of Southorpe came to the reluctant rescue, and took us to live at Hall Farm, his grey-stone Georgian home where plentiful sides of bacon hung in the kitchen. It was to be the first of four different homes for me, some of distinct

and others of distant memory, in my pilgrimage into the past.

I revisited it on a bright day of withering winds, a new time to evoke spent years in what is an impressive village of substantial houses, cottages, dovecotes and almshouses built round a remarkable church, all in Barnack's own famous stone, Barnack Rag, quarried first by the Romans, and on until the 16th century. It is part of that great swath of durable oolite limestone that curves across England, from Dorset to Lincoln.

Transported by barge on the Welland, Barnack stone went to build the abbeys and cathedrals of Peterborough, Ram-

'This sad place once bubbled with children's voices'

sey, Ely, and Bury St Edmunds. "Peterborough Cathedral would not have been so high if Barnack quarry had not been so high," so they say. St John the Baptist, in the heart of Barnack, would probably not be so high without it, a church dating originally from Wulfhere, King of Mercia in 664, whose Saxon ancestry is evident from its belfry and tower, and a carved effigy of Christ. It was the first church I ever entered, a fact I proclaimed in the visitors' book. The list of rectors dates back to Hugh de Karteluna, 1218, and includes Charles Kingsley senior (rector 1824-32), father of the namesake clergyman, poet, novelist and social reformer, who arrived in Barnack, aged five, long before he wrote *The Water Babies* or he used the Fens to create Hereward the Wake.

Kingsley junior, impatient, highly strung, suffered from nightmares, some say as a result of sleeping in a room in the 14th-century rectory, allegedly haunted by the ghost of an unloved priest, wearing flowered dressing gown and cap. Charles, who composed sermons at the age of four, claimed later to remember "every stone and brick" of Barnack.

Today, part of the once extensive rectory site is called the Kingsley Estate, a 1960s, middle-class housing develop-



St John the Baptist church, built in Barnack's own famous stone, Barnack Rag. The list of rectors includes Charles Kingsley senior (1824-32)

ment, the only memorial to bear his name.

A new school has been built behind the old one, dating from 1796, where my only recollection of an early education is of the November night in 1940 when incendiary bombs showered down, one going through the school roof and giving us a day's holiday. Why we should have been evacuated so near to an RAF station has always been a mystery.

But that, too, did give us the excitement of a Junkers 88, adorned with swastikas, crashing into a sugar-beet field and the chance to clamber over the wreckage.

That crash is still remembered as the greatest thing that's happened here in a thousand years," the current rector, the Rev Glyn Austin, mused, an understandable conclusion when so little stirs in Barnack nowadays, except for those lured to its church or to the Hills and Holes, an undulating grassy landscape left over from the ancient quarries. Now our once familiar playground is a protected nature reserve, one of the two richest sites in the country for the mauve pasque or pasch flower, meaning Easter-tide, one rarity among no fewer than nine varieties of native orchid, and some 28 species of butterflies.

The Hills and Holes extend to the edge of Walcot Hall and Park, the distinguished house built in Barnack rag in 1678 by Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, which subsequently became the war operations room of the US Eighth Army Air Force in planning Flying Fortress bomber attacks on Germany. In a corner of the 18th-century walled park with its huge trees and grand avenue of limes was a gamekeeper's cottage.

Here my sisters and I lived with gamekeeper Norman Herron, his wife Ethel, and their two sons, Eric and Ronnie, and it is of this excited

home that I have my strongest recollections, perhaps because of the perfectness of the place.

Here I went out with Norman to shoot rabbit, hare and pigeon, to eat of course, saw him raise pheasant, take honey from the buzzing hives, here I discovered what ferrets were, ate wild strawberries, here Norman skinned moles and

tacked them to boards to dry before selling them.

There was a poignant feeling of coming home on reaching the broken entrance, and then finding, painfully, what I recalled as a big house was really a much smaller one. This home, into which eight people once squeezed, was now dark and derelict with

crushed walls, gutted rooms, surrounded and hidden, almost in shame, by a large tangle of boxwood and shrubs, smashed as if by a giant's fist.

The cast-iron cooking range stood cold and idle. Here I dared to recite some small poem, but only while hidden beneath the kitchen table. This sad place, where there were

only paraffin lamps to light you to bed, once bubbled with children's voices. And provided us with our own lost domain. But no more. Scratch a bit of Britain and you may upset that memory and landscape you cherish from long ago.

GERALD ISAAMAN

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BARNACK FACT FILE

Where to stay

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The Milestone Inn, Barnack (01780 740296). L'Incontro, Old Barn Passage, St Marys Street, Stamford (01780 51675).

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Canada: Drama in Newfoundland; plus, Highland culture and red-hot harmonica players in Cape Breton

A haven to answer the call of the wild

As the drama on Prospero's island was played out, the sea pounded more heavily against the rocky shores of Newfoundland. The fishing boats retreated, but the audience remained entranced.

A cliff-top at Logy Bay, a few miles from the provincial capital, St John, provided the setting for Memorial University's production of *The Tempest*. Logy Bay is typical of the remote coastal villages (known as "outports") linked by Marine Drive, which runs for an hour and a half by car from St John along the north coast of the Avalon Peninsula through Flat Rock to Conception Bay. Its beaches can only be reached by cliff paths and are battered by stormy seas even on fine days.

Newfoundland is a wild province only partly reclaimed from the elements, but this is its peculiar charm. Settled by John Cabot in 1497, the province has great plans for its 500th anniversary next summer. The past is very much alive here. Modern buildings of steel and glass are juxtaposed with brightly painted, wooden houses. Red, blue and green fishermen's cottages nestle in the fishing Battery at the bottom of the cliffs at the narrow entrance to St John harbour.

The Battery lies below Signal Hill, on top of which stands the Cabot Tower, built in 1897. The Battery is like

many coastal outports around St John, such as Quidi Vidi, a fishing village still inside the city limits, with boats moored at jetties surrounded by colourful cottages.

The wildness of the sea crashing against the rocky borders of the island and the isolated outports might not attract everyone. But young Newfies enthuse that St John has more bars per capita than anywhere else in the world. Its wild landscape is certainly matched by its nightlife.

The Irish origins of many islanders still colour Newfoundland's culture. An Irish lilt sounds in many voices in the bars — an echo of the old world mingling with their North American rhapsies in the Avalon and Village Shopping Malls on the edge of the city.

The Basilica of John the Baptist embodies this remarkable fusion. Built in the 19th-century of stone from Ireland and Newfoundland, its twin towers reach 42 metres, and dominate the skyline. The Basilica looks down on St John and probably owes its survival to its position.

The great fire of 1892 wiped out many old buildings. On a hot July afternoon, Tommy Fitzpatrick dropped his pipe while working in a barn — 24 hours later, more than 1,500 homes had been destroyed.

Ferryland is about an hour south of St John. Houses nestle along the shore and clear water laps against the rocks. Fishing boats sit idly in the harbour because the government pays the fishermen not to fish, to allow stocks to replenish. The only activity here is archaeological.

The Avalon Village Dig is excavating the site of Lord Baltimore's 1621 settlement at the inner harbour known as The Pool. Baltimore's wife and children all died here, and he left for Maryland in 1629. North of Ferryland, in Bay Bulls, which, like many Newfoundland harbours, was a vital port for the Allied fleet during the Second World War. Today, the only fleet is tour boats patrolling the waters in search of whales.

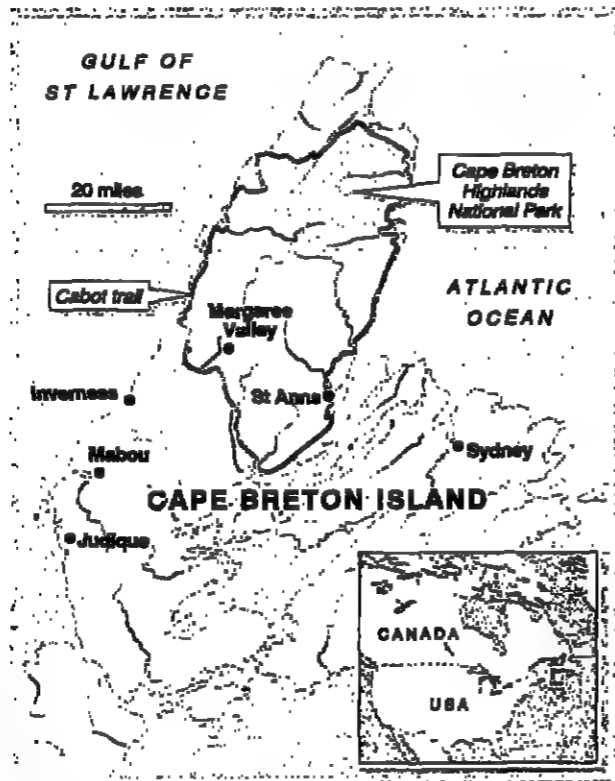
When our boat turned off its engine, you could hear waves crashing against rocks, the cries of birds and Irish music from the crew's CD player. This is the appeal of Newfoundland — the combination of the wild sea with a sense of the island's past — and present.

AMANDA LOOSE



Celtic music, dance and the Gaelic language are alive and well in Cape Breton, a rugged-edged outpost of Nova Scotia, settled by Highlanders after 18th-century clearances

Pure Scotch on the rocks



There's no music like Cape Breton music for dancing," Tommy Basker said. He tapped his glass of rum for emphasis. "You go to a square dance with a hall full of people... and boy, she smokes." Boy, she does. And Tommy should know.

A red-hot harmonica player, all his life he's been involved with the wonderfully infectious music of his native Cape Breton. The island, a ragged-edged outpost of Nova Scotia, pokes out from Canada's Atlantic coast. Not that Cape Bretoners consider themselves Canadians: this large and beautiful island, where music and dance seem to flow through almost every household, is a world unto itself.

Jenny Gardner, a young fiddle player from Edinburgh, was sitting with us in the kitchen of Tommy Basker's house near the island's capital, Sydney. She'd come, like so many others from all corners of the world, to drink at one of the world's purest musical

fountainheads. Scots music and culture are astonishingly alive on the island, where Highlanders came to start new lives during the clearances in 18th and 19th-century Scotland. Not only their music and dance, but their Celtic traditions of hospitality — and their Gaelic language, too — have survived in a landscape that might have been transplanted from the Highlands.

In summer, Cape Breton hums. There are concerts, shows and dances every day of the week; classes in music and dancing at the Gaelic College at St Ann's in the north of the island; informal sessions in bars where musicians gather to test their skills against each other like gunfighters at the OK Corral. But I was in search of the "pure drop", the back-kitchen music played by the island's great musicians for their own pleasure, and as a courtesy to the casual caller.

The eastern side of the island is the stronghold of descendants of Presbyterian and Church of Scotland set-

lers. The west is hillier and wilder, the land of the Catholic Highlanders and French refugees driven out of Nova Scotia by religious persecution in the 18th century. In the north is the Cape Breton Highlands National Park, encircled by the Cabot Trail, a stunningly beautiful drive.

I was aiming for Inverness County, on the southwest coast, where most of Cape Breton's master fiddlers live in tucked-away valleys above lonely beaches. Jenny Gardner was quick to hitch a ride once she heard where I was bound: and with us came David MacDonald, whose delight is to collect musicians and dancers for wild sessions in the barn at the Normandy Inn he runs near Mabou.

We threaded into steadily rising country where painted, weather-board farmhouses, stood in clearings and called on Archie Neil Chisholm. Eighty-nine years old and as sharp as a knife, he has compered more concerts and encouraged more young musicians than you could shake a bow at.

It was Archie and a few like-minded friends who convened a gathering of Cape Breton musicians in 1973, to revive the musical culture they feared was on the verge of extinction. One of Cape Breton's new young breed of fiddlers, Wendy MacIsaac, was spending the afternoon with Archie Neil. Bravely, Jenny accepted an invitation to strike up the first tune; then Wendy replied in kind, a leaping succession of reels, marches and strathspeys. "It nearly died out in the first decade of this century," Archie Neil said. "Father MacDonald, the priest, collected all the fiddles in Margaree and broke them up. It was the Devil's music to him, you see. Some people had two fiddles, though, and only gave him the poorer one."

At evening, under a full moon, we came down rough

FACT FILE

- Travel: Air Canada (0990 247236) flies from Heathrow to St John from £339.
- Accommodation: Battery Hotel and Suites (001 709 576 0040) three-star, overlooking the harbour, from £35 per person per night.
- Tours: May-Oct: City and Outport Tours (00 709 754 8687); tour buses run daily to the Southern shore and Bay Bulls. The six-hour tour costs £30, children under 12 £15. Includes lunch, return transport and boat trip to Bay Bulls.
- Ferryland Museum, 00 709 432 2711. Signal Hill National Historic Site, 00 709 772 5367. Basilica, 00 709 754 2170. Avalon Dig, 00 709 729 2830.
- Department of Tourism 00 709 729 2830. Events planned for 1997 celebrations of 500 years since John Cabot landed in Newfoundland (001 709 722 1997).

FACT FILE

- Travel: Air Canada (0990 247236) flies from Heathrow to Halifax, Nova Scotia, from £499.
- Car hire can be arranged through Thrifty Car Hire (01494 442110) from £147 a week.
- Accommodation: Delta Hotel, Sydney (00 902 562 7500), from £40 per night. Dunvegan Inn, Mabou (00 902 945 2207) from £35 per night.
- Normanway Inn, Margaree Valley (00 902 248 3987) from £35.
- Cape Breton Tourism Information, Canada Centre, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-439 2299).
- Information on music sessions and dances from David MacDonald (00 902-248-3987).
- Jerry Holland's Celtic Trail School of Celtic Music, PO Box 297, Inverness, Cape Breton, N.S. B0E 1N0.

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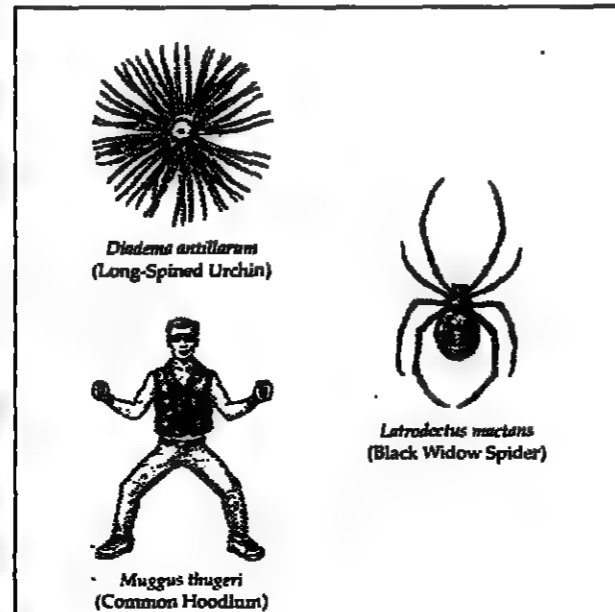
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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 23

SERINGUEIRO
(c) In Brazil, a person employed to gather rubber. From the Portuguese *seringa*. Also, erroneously, *seringero*. "The dwindling number of Indians was pressed into service as seringueiros. The isolated, difficult life of the exploited seringueiro explained the recruitment problem."

TIANG
(c) A small, dark-brown antelope belonging to a race of the korymbus, *Damaliscus lunatus*, found in the Sudan and neighbouring parts of Ethiopia. "The Tiang, as the well-known German traveller and naturalist Theodor von Heuglin proposed to call this antelope, after its native name, is a representative form of the Korymbus in the upper valley of the Nile."

SQUADROL
(a) A small police van. US slang. A portmanteau word made from packing together *squad* + *patrol*. "The Plymouth was a black ahead when the squadrol, its red and blue lights flashing, came in sight on a collision course."

VAGABONDIA
(a) The realm or world of vagabonds. Jocular US slang from *vagabond* turned into a place name. "You should not make the mistake of confusing Hobe with Vagabondia. The latter is a more and less alluring realm of the Old World."

Starting in October we shall be resuming our flight series direct from London Gatwick to Agra for the Taj Mahal and in the process avoiding the tedium of travelling to and from Delhi and permitting the traveller to see that which he has come to see and able to relax and explore other parts of Rajasthan at an easy pace and when the weather is at its most pleasant. Our arrangement includes the international flight to and from Agra, visits to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort, 7 nights accommodation at either the 5-star Agra Claris Shiraz hotel or alternatively at the 5-star deluxe Mughal Sheraton at a modest supplement. A variety of optional visits to Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Sikandra, Bharatpur and Delhi are available. Alternatively you may elect to just relax and enjoy the facilities of your chosen hotel.

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favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The building is of white marble and has pietra-dura inlay work of extraordinary delicacy. Later continue to the Red Fort, a complete Moghul city in itself, built by Akbar and enclosed by turreted, red sandstone walls.

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TRAVEL

21

No regrets at Piaf museum

Few know about the Edith Piaf Museum, and fewer still make the effort to visit it, thus it is the perfect antidote to a hot day queuing with 5,000 others who want to be fed culture at the Louvre.

The Piaf fan must be dedicated, regretting nothing in his or her efforts to worship at the altar of the diva, for the museum is far off the beaten track in the 11th, near where Piaf grew up in the slums of Belleville. Each visit requires a phone call to the curator, Bernard Marchois, to book a time for the next afternoon. But this means you will have the museum, and M Marchois, an old friend of Piaf, entirely to yourself.

After a short walk from Père Lachaise or Ménilmontant metro, you find yourself in the unprepossessing Rue Crépiau-du-Gast, down from a Salvation Army refuge. But there is a plaque outside number five for the "Musée Les Amis d'Edith Piaf". You dial in the entry code and ascend four flights of stairs, increasingly for your life.

Instead, M Marchois pops out of a door, a man in his fifties with a diamond stud earring, and welcomes you into a sea of memorabilia and kitsch. His hairy pike smokes at your feet.

The shrine to Piaf consists of two small rooms. The red walls are decorated with original posters from the 1940s and 1950s, tacky oil paintings, and framed letters and cards. There are busts of Piaf, three stage costumes and, splendidly, a life-size cardboard figure of her, less than 5ft tall. Her giant teddy bear, of much the same height, sits in a chair by the door. In the background, *La Vie en Rose* plays on the gramophone.

M Marchois has every existing Piaf recording — more than 300 songs — and will take special requests during the visit. His personal favourite is *La Foule*. He met Piaf at her apartment in the 16th arrondissement in 1958 when he was 16 years old, and continued to be part of her entourage until she died in 1963.

"In real life she was not this sad

person of her songs. She was vivacious, fun to be with, always making jokes. We all loved to be around her," says M Marchois, who gives his tour in French.

The first time, when a friend took M Marchois to visit Piaf, he was disappointed. "He said I would see this great chanteuse, and instead there was this tiny little ordinary woman. But then she sat down at her piano, and I understood." Thereafter, M Marchois would visit Piaf almost every night when she was not on tour — but she barely spent more than three months of the year in Paris.

In 1977, all the friends of Edith Piaf gathered souvenirs she had left them and decided to display them to the public. "There was not much. She was not a great materialist, and only had a few bits of furniture in her big apartment."

Now the committee of friends runs the Piaf fan club and the museum from the same address in the 11th. Almost 80 per cent of the museum's visitors are young people, all well-versed in the Piaf legend. She has also become a major gay icon. There is something of a sideshow atmosphere to the rather cramped place. Her tiny size 2 suede shoes nestle on shelves. The friends also kept curiosities such as a photocopy of Piaf's palm. "You can see her life line is suddenly cut short here," M Marchois says. Piaf died at 48.

Her grave, incidentally, is conveniently near the museum, at the back of Père Lachaise cemetery (plot 97, second row) and is always covered in new flowers. M Marchois was one of the 400,000 who turned out for the funeral of "L'Ange Noir" and says "all Paris mourned".

KATE MUIR

Edith Piaf Museum, 5 Rue Crépiau-du-Gast, 11th, by appointment only. Mon to Thurs afternoon, call Bernard Marchois on 45 55 52 72. Free.

"Une vie pour les sans-abri", picture of the city homeless by Paris Match photographer Bruno Bachelet. Centre Georges Pompidou, 4th, 44 78 12 33, until Sept 16.



The beautiful beaches of far-off places, such as Barbados (above), are helping to make long-haul holiday flights the fastest-growing sector of British Airways

Top of the long hauls

HONG KONG, Barbados and South Africa are British Airways' fastest-growing destinations this year. BA's 1997 programme, with prices starting at £295 for a week in Egypt, reflects the popularity of long-haul travel, which now accounts for one in five of all holidaymakers, as well as the buoyancy of the cruising market. Its new Cruise and Stay brochure offers several land and sea combinations, with a three-night Caribbean cruise or four nights in Orlando costing from £825. A sports brochure features golf, riding, tennis and watersports.

Honestly...

EVEN before most of us have taken our holidays this year, Thomson has launched its 1997 summer programme, offering more than two million holidays from 20 UK airports — and de-

scribing the hotels in tell-it-like-it-is language, based on the experiences of previous guests. Prices start at £99 per adult for a week's self-catering in Salou, Spain, in May, plus £9 for the first child. On its "Superfamily" holidays offering accommodation with play centres, the company has teamed up with Mothercare to provide everything from sterilisers and bottle warmers to cots, baby bays and high chairs. New destinations include Croatia, from £149 for a week's half board, and Zimbabwe/Kenya, from £1,419 for a 14-day safari.

Shuttle breaks

CUT-PRICE breaks to French, Dutch and Belgian cities travelling by Le Shuttle are available from Time Off (0171-234 9070), with free travel for children to Paris until September 15. Two-night B&B breaks to Paris start at £105 via Le Shuttle with your own car, and £164 by Eurostar. Further economies can be made by travelling midweek to Paris, and choosing one of Time Off's hotels offering free accommodation for

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

children under 12. There are also breaks travelling one-way by Eurostar and one way by air.

Oh, oh heaven

THE POWERS of evil, including the baddies from Smerch and Spectre, along with the Bond goodies, will be in Jamaica from October 23-27 for the first James Bond festival. Caribours (0171-581 3517) is offering flights and six nights with all meals and drinks at the Jamaica Grande in Ocho Rios from £1,499.

Going bananas

A NEW brochure by the banana trader Fyfe, including its 35-day round trips between Portsmouth and Surinam costing £1,980 with all meals, is available from Cargo Ship Voyages (01473 736265). The working ship stops first at Flushing in Holland to load buses and other freight. During unloading, two days are spent at Paramaribo, where jungle trips are available.

The seven passengers dine with the British officers. Guyana and the Windward Isles are sometimes on the Fyfe itinerary.

Wild idea

PEAK International (01296 624225), which organises wilderness adventures for small groups, offers a two-week canoeing and camping trip in northern Minnesota this month and next. The trip is timed to coincide with early autumn and the chance to observe otters, loons, beavers, bald eagles and perhaps wolf, black bears and moose. The price, £685, does not include flights.

Roman plot

APARTMENTS set high on one of Rome's seven hills, and in the last remaining orchard garden within the ancient walls, are available from Room Service (0171-636 6888), which specialises in traditional, family-run hotels in Italy. The apartments are five minutes walk from the Colosseum, and seven minutes by bus to the city

centre. They cost from £89-£119 a week, sleeping two-four people. Minimum stay four nights.

Ski farm

IF YOU ski in the Austrian resort of Bad Jeonkirchen in Carinthia, you can stay in a 300-year-old farmhouse apartment, with home-baked bread each morning. The Leebhof farmhouse costs £132 a week for each of four people, self-drive including the ferry crossing, or £267 per person by air. Details from Austrian Pursuits (01763 852646), which specialise in places where holidaymakers become part of the community.

Tippie trail

WINE breaks in Provence offered by Winetrails (01306 712111) are based on La Corniche, a little hotel with an oyster bar and views over Toulon Harbour. The three-day breaks, including tours to some of the wine domains of the region, such as Bandol, Palette, Côte de Provence and Côteaux Varois, cost £199 without travel or car hire, £239 with self-drive and ferry, and £319 by air with car hire. Extra nights, £35.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win flights to Jo'burg with Virgin

14 pairs of tickets worth £30,000 to be won on Virgin's new service to South Africa

The Times, in association with Virgin Atlantic, gives you a partner the chance to win return flights on Virgin's new daily service direct from London to Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city. We have 14 pairs of return tickets, worth more than £30,000, to give away to this new Virgin Atlantic destination, which launches on October 2.

All you have to do is collect four of the tokens appearing in *The Times* over the next week, answer the competition question and write ten words on the application form below explaining why you want to win tickets to Johannesburg.

The first-prize winner will receive a pair of Virgin Atlantic Upper Class tickets, two nights at Sabi Sabi, a private game reserve, one night at Lesedi cultural village and four nights at the Karos Indaba hotel, Johannesburg. All meals (except at the Karos Indaba) safaris with an expert guide and transfers are included.

As passengers of Virgin's Upper Class, the first-prize winners will get a chauffeur-driven car which takes them from home to Heathrow to enjoy all the amenities of the Clubhouse. Once on board, they will enjoy the comfort of a first-class sleeper, seat, with 35in of legroom, and a wide variety of award-winning entertainment including a personal surround TV screen with up to 24 channels including eight movie channels showing the latest releases.

Second prize is one of three pairs of tickets for travel in Premium Economy, the world's best economy service with more space, bigger seats with 38in of legroom, a dedicated check-in service and drinks before take off — all for a fully-



Personal service: Virgin Atlantic Upper Class

flexible economy ticket.

A further ten runners-up will receive a pair of Economy tickets. Our winners will enjoy comfortable and spacious seats, friendly and attentive cabin crew and easy to view seatback TVs offering award-winning entertainment. Exceptional service includes a choice of meal, complimentary drinks and an amenity kit full of useful items for your comfort throughout the flight.

At Sabi Sabi, a private game reserve on the banks of the Sabie River, ecologically and geographically integrated with the world famous Kruger National Park, the winner and his or her companion will be taken on safari deep into the African bush in an open four-wheel-

drive vehicle. Lesedi, a Sotho word meaning "light", is a multicultural African village. Our winners will meet the various tribes and enjoy an evening of singing and dancing in the open air. They will stay in a hut (with private facilities) set aside for visitors before going to the luxurious Karos Indaba hotel in the elite northern suburbs of Johannesburg. From this country-style hotel with thatched roofs and whitewashed walls, they can set out to explore this fascinating city.

HOW TO ENTER

Attach four tokens from *The Times* to the form below and tick the appropriate answer to the competition question. Then complete the ten-word tie-breaker. Send your entry to: *The Times/Virgin Jo'burg Competition*, Ashmole Court, London EC8R 8NG. The closing date for receipt of entries is Thursday, August 22, 1996.

THE TIMES/VIRGIN JO'BURG COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

When does Virgin Atlantic's new service to Jo'burg launch?
☐ a) September 2 ☐ b) October 2 ☐ c) November 2

Mr/Mrs/Ms _____ Initials _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Day Tel _____

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE FOUR QUESTIONS:

Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

1 15-24 2 25-34 3 35-44
 4 45-54 5 55-64 6 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

THE TIMES
 JO'BURG TOKEN 1
 virgin atlantic

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from The Times or other companies carefully selected by Times Newspapers Limited please tick this box ☐



Clockwise from top: big game on the banks of the Sabie River. The Karos Indaba hotel, north of Johannesburg.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1 The prizes will consist of: one pair of one pair of Upper Class round-trip tickets worth £30,000; one pair of Premium Economy round-trip tickets worth £15,000; one pair of Economy round-trip tickets worth £7,500; one pair of Economy round-trip tickets worth £7,500; one pair of Economy round-trip tickets worth £7,500. 2 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 3 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 4 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 5 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 6 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 7 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 8 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 9 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 10 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 11 The prizes will be awarded to the winners of the competition. 12 The prizes 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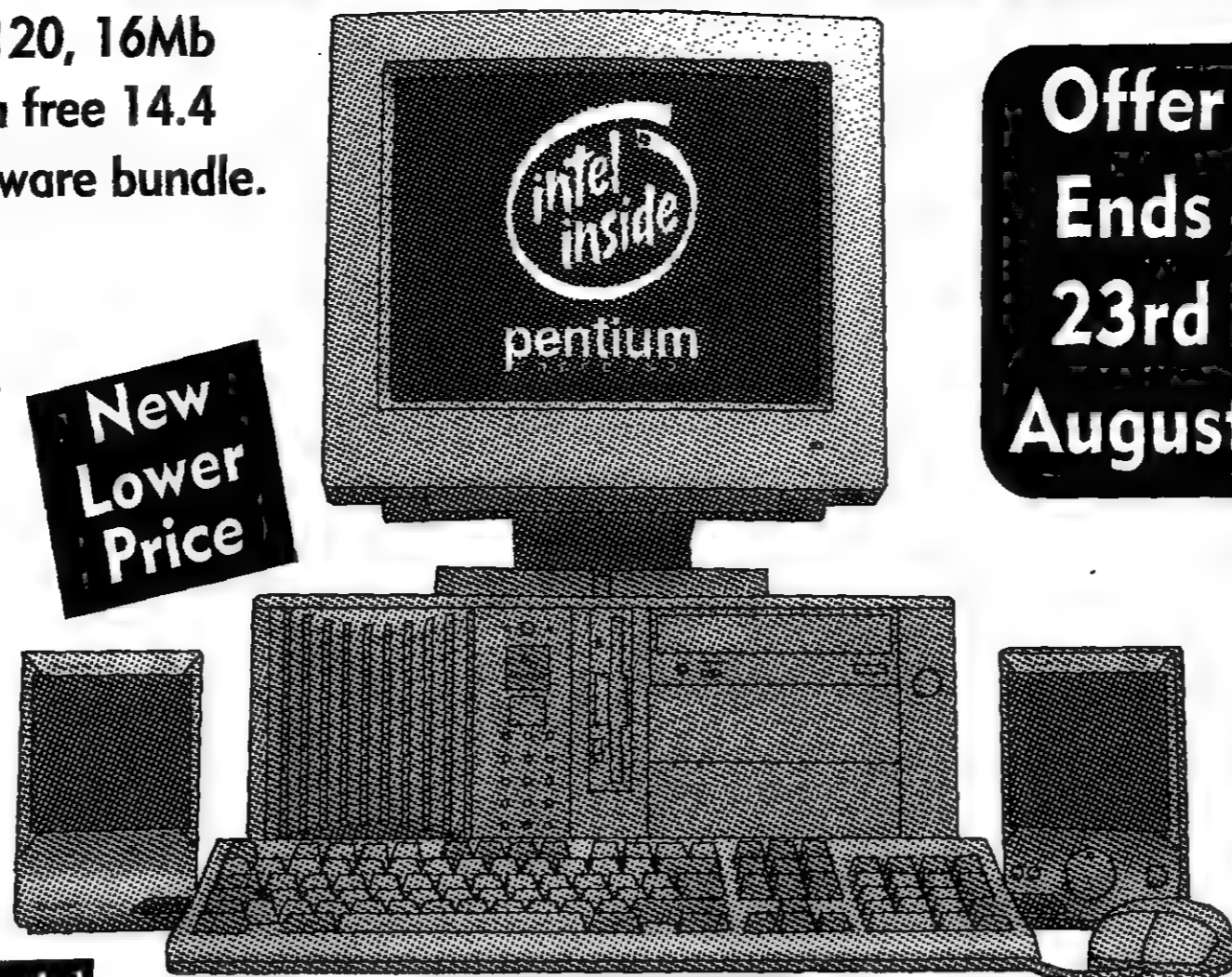
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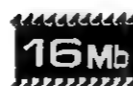
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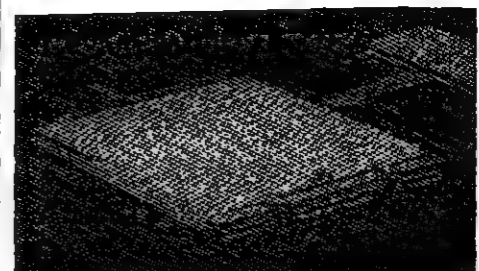
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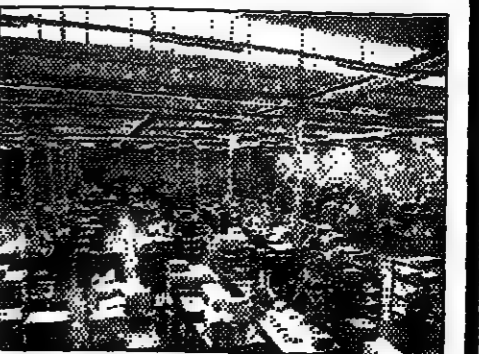
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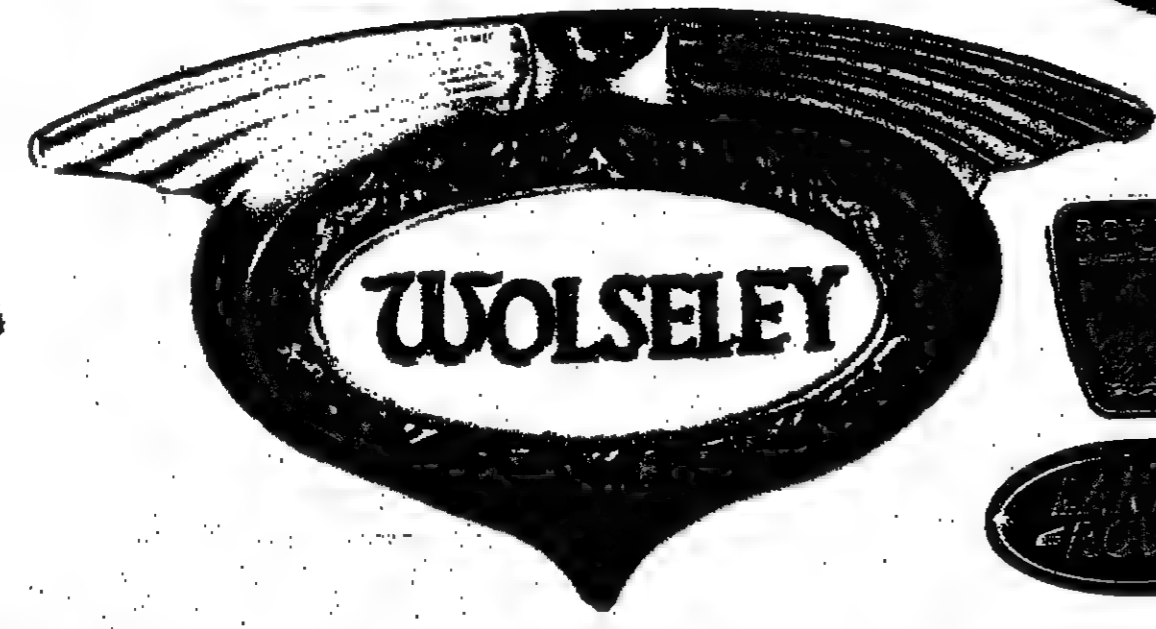
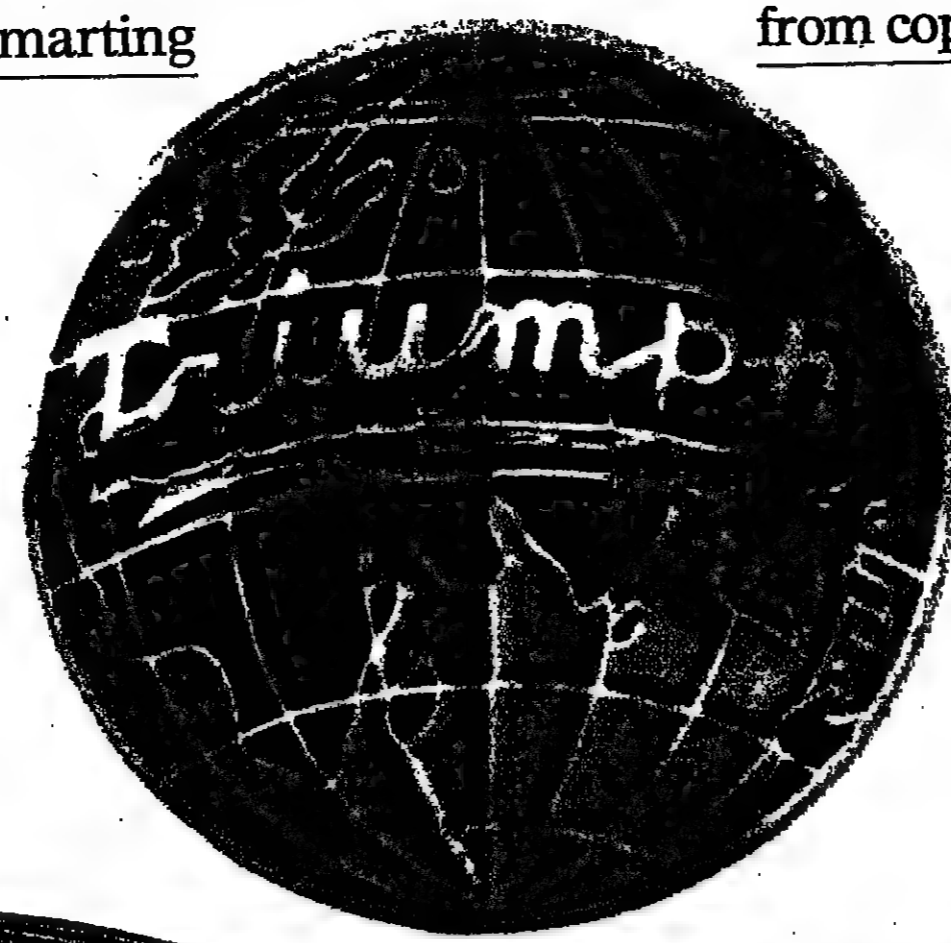
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SATURDAY AUGUST 3 1996

Enthusiast-run companies are smarting

from copyright purges, says Kevin Eason



Get off my marques, Rover growls

Rover is cracking down on motor traders who have kept alive some of the company's most historic names. The BMW-owned multinational has written to dozens of small garages saying they are no longer authorised to use names such as Austin and Morris, even though Rover has not made cars with those badges for years.

Some small traders — often one or two-man companies who have been working on historic cars for nearly 20 years — have been shocked by threats of legal action and demands to scrap signs, letter headings and catalogues.

Even two of the country's leading Morris Minor dealers have been forced to change their names to comply with the new Rover ruling.

Rover holds the rights to some of the most compelling names in the British motor industry. Austin and Morris were among the founding marques of the industry, which celebrates its centenary this year, while Rover is one of the oldest surviving names.

In the great shakeout of the car business over the past 30 years though, once powerful companies were absorbed and became one powerful grouping. Austin and Morris be-



Minor dealer Martin Dooner expects to have to scrap £10,000 worth of catalogues

came the British Motor Corporation, which evolved into BLMC and eventually BL. By then, the company had the rights to defunct marques such as Riley, Wolseley, Austin-Healey and Standard. Triumph and MG died out in the 1980s.

BL was apparently less interested in history than in survival. The company was renamed Rover as part of a marketing drive to establish a new, upmarket identity for the newly privatised business, while the other badges, except for Land Rover, were sidelined. By that time, an entire industry maintaining the company's historic names was flourishing and dozens of businesses had sprung up supplying parts, restoring old cars and selling memorabilia. Until now.

Rover has been wading through companies, checking their activities and warning that they will not be able to use products branded with Rover Group names without a licence awarded by the company's British Motor Heritage subsidiary. Some companies are allowed to join Heritage as an approved supplier and, though neither Rover nor traders would give the price of membership, it is thought to be one per cent of annual sales — a fortune for many busi-

ROVER: Making cars from 1804, chosen in 1984 for state-owned range, evolving from BMC, BLMC, British Leyland and then BL.

LAND ROVER: Company founded in 1948.

MG: Started 1924. MGB Britain's best-selling sports car, though company closed 1980. MG's latest version.

WOLSELEY: Herbert Austin built first Wolseley in 1899. Last in 1976.

RILEY: Company founded 1898, gone by 1962.

TRIUMPH: Motorcycle maker moved into cars in 1923, lost in 1984.

STANDARD: Name dropped in 1983.

AUSTIN: Herbert's giant from 1906; last car, Montego, 1988.

MORRIS: William Morris founded business 1913; last car, Ital, 1983.

AUSTIN-HEALEY: Speciale waiting to be revived.

current, such as MG, Mini and Land Rover. A Rover spokesman says: "There is no problem with people asking for licences. We are happy for them to co-operate with us, but quite a few have not responded to our early approaches and it is those we have been talking to recently."

But the purge has often been as bizarre as it has been strict: the Morris Minor Centre in Bath, one of the most famous suppliers of the cherished cars, was forced to alter its name although the company has been in existence for 20 years and is known world-wide. Charles Ware, the founder, was keeping the marque alive, even though Rover allowed the Morris name to lapse in 1983. Tim Brennan, at what is now Charles Ware's Morris Minor Centre, says: "When they first came on to us we were dumbstruck. We felt bullied in a way and decided we had to have legal advice on what we would be called. They even wanted to approve our new name."

Martin Dooner still does not know what his Morris Minor Company in Doncaster, in business 15 years, will be called. He is also expecting to have to scrap £10,000 worth of colour sales catalogues just printed before the purge.

"Rover Group has never

bothered about us before and never showed any interest in cars like the Morris Minor," he says. "Next thing we know, we are involved with the company and lawyers. At first, we thought it was a joke but we have been negotiating for a long time now and it certainly is no joke. We cannot even agree a new name with them."

Dealers in historic Rovers have suffered worst as the carmaker rooves to protect its copyright. Jonathan Wadham in the West Midlands describes himself as a cottage industry who deals in Rovers made between 1950 and 1977. He is involved in what seems to be an increasingly bitter legal feud with the company. Gordon Stacey's company, Rover Part of London, has become Motor Part of London at the cost of £5,000 for a new sign which, he was warned, could not contain Rover's maroon. Rover's inspection included a warning not to sell mudflaps bearing the Rover logo.

He says: "I understand their concern for their brands but it is the way it is happening. Rover is losing a lot of goodwill from people like me who have been dedicated to their brand for a long time. All we want is some time to adjust."



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The racing Jaguar to die for goes to auction today says Alan Copps



Among the 60s greats who raced the car were (from left) Roy Salvadori, Dan Gurney, Graham Hill and Jackie Stewart

E-Type legend goes under the hammer

When the E-Type Jaguar was unveiled in 1961 it caused a sensation. That sleek shape, so often cited even now as the perfect sports car, just had to go racing. But at the time Jaguar had no works team, the glory days of Le Mans in the 1950s were a receding memory.

So it was private entrants, that eccentric breed who made the racing scene of the 1950s and 1960s so colourful and varied, who took up the challenge. One of these men, John Coombs, became the first customer to take delivery of an E-Type in April 1961 and immediately set about establishing the aerodynamic Coventry car as a serious rival to the Ferraris and Aston Martins which held sway in sports car racing.

That car, 4 WPD, became the first Lightweight E-Type, tuned and prepared for racing, with the help of the factory's competition department, yet still a road car under the skin. In the story of racing E-Types it is regarded as 'First Among Equals' and today it is being offered for sale at the Coys Festival auction at Silverstone with a guide price of up to £550,000 — an astonishing price for a car which, when it went on sale, was hailed as the 'first affordable grand tourer' and cost just £2,097.

This is the E-Type to die for, driven by more famous names than any other at a time when sports car and GT racing became a battle for supremacy between the 'big car' from Coventry and the 'leaping horse' from Maranello. It only just won its claim to be the first E-Type delivered, since it was driven from the Coventry factory to Coombs's team base at the Oulton Park circuit in Cheshire in company with another E-Type destined for Tommy Sopwith's Equipe Endavour. The driver of the second car stopped for a chat with a friend just as he entered the circuit and so Coombs's car was the first to be handed over.

In its first race at Oulton Park, in virtually standard form, it was driven to third place by Roy Salvadori in a



The car was converted in 1962 to an aluminium body, as the first Lightweight E-Type.

contest won spectacularly by Graham Hill in the Sopwith car. Salvadori went on to win other races in its first season. The following year in the hands of Graham Hill it gave the legendary Ferrari 250 GTO a run for its money, but the Italian car, built for competition, had the edge over what was a production road Jaguar. In the winter of 1962, 4 WPD turned into the first Lightweight, with aluminium replacing its steel body and power boosted to 344bhp. In Hill's hands it proved unbeatable in British events the following year. It was test-driven by Jack Brabham and raced by the great American driver Dan Gurney.

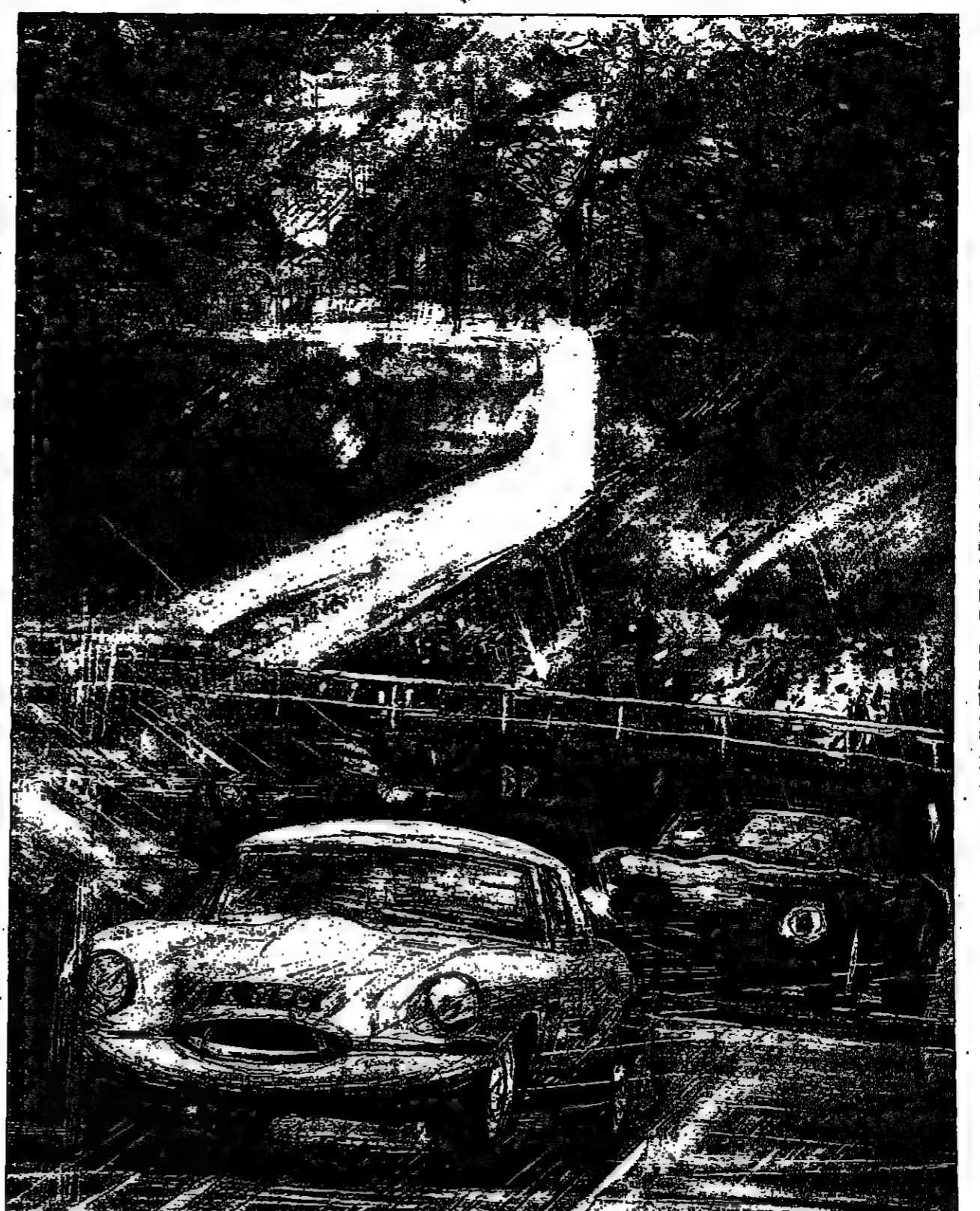
In its fourth season of racing, when new challenges emerged from the Ferrari 250LM and the mighty AC Cobra with its huge American V8 engine, John Coombs was persuaded by 'Lofty' England, head of Jaguar's competition department to give a new young driver a chance in it.

Jackie Stewart won his first race in 4 WPD at Crystal Palace, a notable showing of the early promise that led eventually to three world drivers' championships. The following year, in the hands of another promising younger driver, Brian Redman, who went on to become one of the great sports car drivers of

the era, it won 21 races. Then after one more season of club racing it was stored for the best part of 23 years and is remarkably original.

It is a perfect centrepiece for a sale which forms part of a three-day programme of historic racing dedicated to keeping alive the entertaining spirit that characterised that bygone era and contrasts so strongly with the ruthless professionalism and sponsorship that dominates today's top-level events.

The auction contains a number of other cars which would be perfect for the Coys style of historic racing — which is one of the fastest developing areas of motor sport and ranges



If you don't have £550,000 for the real Jaguar, how about Francesco Scianna's oil painting of it for around £2,000?

from pre-war racers to last year's cars. There is a 1936 Maserati 6 CM driven to a notable series of victories by Count Trossi; a 1937 HRG which won its class at Le Mans in 1939 and one of the earliest Ferraris ever made, a 1947 166 Spider Corsa which is estimated to attract bids of around £300,000.

Road cars include a 1949 Alfa Romeo once owned by film star Tyrone Power and a rare Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing from 1956, while among later models there is a Jaguar XJR-15, the roadgoing version of the car that won Le Mans in 1988, a rebodied Ford GT40 — another roadgoing Le Mans winner, and the Lister-Jaguar Storm GT1 which ran at Le Mans last year.

Family race team that's four-fifths female

Vaughan Freeman on the girl fanatics weaned on classic competition machines

Having their baby bottles heated on the radiators of their parents' cars was the somewhat eccentric introduction to the world of classic motor racing for Alex, Tania and Erika Pilkington.

A few years on, having put the baby bottles behind them, the three Pilkington sisters are now more at home behind the steering wheel of famous historic grand prix cars than sitting in the shadow of the engine having their lunches warmed. This weekend all three, together with their father, Richard, and mother, Trisha, as team manager, will be racing at the Silverstone track as part of the Coys Historic Festival motoring weekend.

Alex, 26, and Tania, 30, will be at the wheel of the Alfa Romeo 1750 Tourist Trophy car that won the Irish Grand Prix at Phoenix Park in 1929. They raced the same car at the same event last year with such aplomb that their effort was part of the winning team competition, despite being massively outpowered by larger-engined competitors.

Erika, Tania's twin, will be co-driving a friend's three-litre 1925 Bentley, while Richard will be piloting his 1950 Talbot-Lago, which five-times world champion Juan Manuel Fangio drove at Le Mans in 1953.

As well as racing one of the dozen or so vintage cars housed in their parents' Totnes Motor Museum, all three girls also run their own classics, the newest of which is Tania's 1978 Alfa Romeo Spider. Erika is to be seen in a more elderly Austin Seven Ulster, and Alex in her diminutive 1934 Riley Imp.

How did it all start? Alex, who drives a Mini Moke for her everyday transport and works as a public relations consultant in London, says: "We didn't have any choice in it really. I remember coming home from school and us all being piled into the car with the tent and the oily T-shirts."

"We had to learn how to fix the cars because we were always told that we

could only bend them if we knew how to mend them. The first car I drove was the Austin Seven that Erika has now, when I was eight. I was told that I could drive it when I could reach the pedals, and came back with three cushions and a jerry can to boost me so I could reach them."

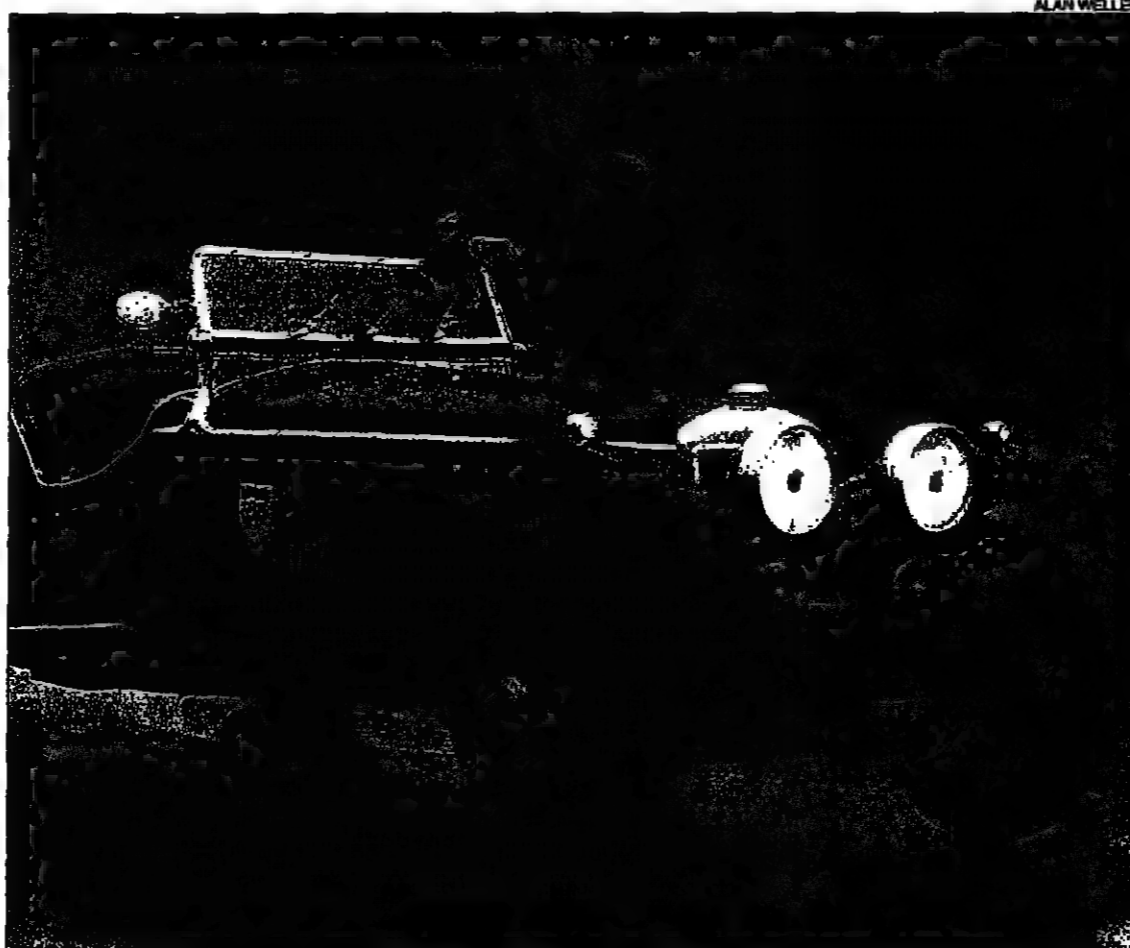
The venture ended in dismay when the car lurched backwards, denting the rear. "We also used to drive a half-sized electric Bugatti up and down the museum. It was just such fun there was no choice in not doing it. Perhaps if we had all been boys we would think twice about it."

Alex raced first when she was 19 at Silverstone but also enjoys longer trips, such as a rally through France in the Austin Seven with Erika. "We were doing our pathetic female bit and letting people help us. Then somebody spotted us taking the cylinder head off and the game was up. We didn't get much more help after that. People are very helpful though and there are lots more women involved in the sport than most people might think. Like us, their families have been involved in it for a long time and they too get involved."

While Alex concedes that her father Richard and mother Trisha are more than generous in allowing their high-speed daughters to race cars from the museum collection, there is still one car that Alex has yet to get her hands on, her father's Fangio Talbot-Lago. "I have been trying to get into that car but none of us have been allowed to get close to it yet," she says. "I'm aware that it is incredibly heavy but I think mostly he's worried about letting one of us drive it in case we go faster than him."

So for now, Alex is content with her Riley Imp. "I use the Mini Moke to drive to work in but, instead of buying a house, I persuaded my parents to part with the Riley Imp which is a lovely little car, though not big enough to sleep in and it's not really a racer."

Trisha recalls: "Initially, I don't



Alex Pilkington with her 1934 Riley Imp: "It's a lovely little car, though it's not big enough to sleep in."

think Erika and Tania thought that the motor racing was anything out of the ordinary because it was just a way of life for them. We would go to events when they were just babies and we would all be staying in the tent and I remember we used to heat their baby bottles on the radiators of the cars.

"It was our way of life and I don't think they thought anything more about it. They all got involved eventually though, and went into hock to buy their own cars."

"They all do their own mechanical work on the cars themselves and they can all change engines and head-gaskets and that sort of thing. All of them are very good mechanics, and I am pretty sure now that we are the

only family that has five people in it racing, of which four are girls."

This weekend Trisha will be reluctantly forsaking her usual place, which would be at the wheel of her 1932 Alfa Romeo Monza, to be promoted — "or relegated, I don't know which" — to team manager.

She will also spend her time hosting visitors to her TOPS tent, the organisation run by the Pilkingtons to provide fun race events for enthusiasts and whose sponsors include Alfa Romeo, Michelin the tyre makers and French garage firm, Ecurie Cathare.

Sadly, one element of the Pilkingtons' all-consuming love affair with vintage cars comes to an end this

year after more than a quarter of a century. In its peak times, as many as 40,000 visitors annually visited their motor museum in Totnes. Come October though the doors will close for the last time and they will sell off much of the collection, including motorcycles and automobiles as well as the cars, from Bentleys and Rolls-Royces to a Jaguar XK120, Alfa Romeo Giulietta, Wingfield Jaguar D-Type and a Riley Lynx Sprite.

Trisha says: "We will keep all the cars we race and the ones we are particularly attached to, like the Alfas and Talbots. Otherwise I don't know where we will put everything. We only opened the museum because the attic was full and it's still full, so it will have to go somewhere."

COYS FESTIVAL

■ **THE COYS** International Historic Festival attracts more spectators to Silverstone than any other event apart from the British Grand Prix. Today and tomorrow there are 15 races for cars ranging from pre-war grand prix machines to historic racing saloons.

■ **FEATURED** marquees include MG, which has its own race, the Abingdon Trophy, on Sunday morning. Sirling Moss will be at the wheel of an MGB 6 DBL, which won the Autosport championship in 1963. He faces a strong challenge from his sister car, 8 DBL, which will be driven by former British Touring car Champion Frank Syner.

■ **MOSS** is one of the two fastest drivers ever in an MG. Nearly 40 years ago he claimed five international class speed records in the experimental car EX181, at up to 245mph. As well as the

Sunday race there will be track parades of landmark MGs on both days.

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Nit-picking Kevin Eason lacked any real criticisms after road-testing Bavaria's nearly perfect new product



BMW's new 5-series: too clever by half

It took a couple of hours, but I found it — the fault. You see, BMW's new 5-series is so damn near perfect that the challenge became to find one thing, just one thing wrong with it.

I had four hours of whizzing along rural French roads in the two variants — the entry-level 520i and the muscular 540i — gradually settling into a reverie as I listened to those glorious engines and prodded the dashboard switches.

But it was all a bit too easy. Give a motorist a correspondent an even break, chaps: I have to find 529 words to fill out this space and what am I supposed to write about when the car is faultless? A man needs a few glitches to get into his stride and there are precious few jokes in perfection. Neither is there any hope for a piece which gushes furiously all over the Germans a month after that penalty shoot-out.

But there is no alternative: praise in heaps it must be, I'm afraid. So, dear reader, feel free to turn to page seven if it all becomes too much for you or prepare to cringe, for I am about to gush without mercy or shame (and without so much as a decent BMW-provided lunch to inspire me on this occasion).

BMW changed 12,571 components (someone in Munich obviously got a calculator for Christmas) to build an all-new car for the latest 5-series, and the results are stunning. Don't take my word for it, because just about everyone who has driven anything from the range drools, and many consider the 5-series the best car in the world. Even better than a Mercedes E-class? Or a junior Jaguar? No doubt about it: the 5-series is simply fantastic.

The styling is gorgeous, the interiors cossetting, the equip-

ment levels astonishing, the drive wondrous, the engines fabulous... er, I think I will have to go for a cold shower and a lie down.

The new six-cylinder two-litre — which will be the base car in the range — is the best in its segment, the engine plenty powerful for impressive acceleration and a happy and unstrained cruising speed. BMW says that new tyres containing silica tread not only knock 2 per cent off fuel consumption — helping the 520i to an average 31 miles to the gallon — but also reduce noise by 33 per cent. The car is

anti-lock brakes as standard equipment just to underline the quality of the safety package.

And the driving is wonderful, everything from the steering to the brakes is accurate and measured. If the 520i is clean-cut and good at its job, a sort of Roger Black of the car Olympics, the new 4.4-litre is all power and controlled aggression, a Donovan Bailey, the new 100 metres world record holder, sculptured in metal.

The 540i comes with either a six-speed manual or BMW's latest automatic box, which incorporates its five-speed Steptronic sequential semi-automatic gearbox for drivers who want to slip into sporting mode: just push the gear lever to the left into the Steptronic slot, then push the stick forward to go up the gears and back to go down.

The automatic kick-down is incredibly smooth but the Steptronic adds more flexibility and increases opportunities to hear that V8 roar with the judicious use of the right foot.

That's it, then: that's enough praise on one day for any manufacturer, even BMW. The BMW 5-series is a very good car and I am saying no more about it, except to add that those of you lucky enough to have £23,000 or more to spend should hesitate no longer and get yourself straight down to your local BMW dealer and order a 5-series now before they sell out.

What? Oh, the fault. What about the fault, the editor asks. Uhuh, the entrance to the boot is not very wide. Well, it's not narrow but it doesn't seem very wide to me, anyway. That's it, that's all I could find to pick an argument with. Not very good is it? But I'm doing my best. It's not my fault...

Everyone who has driven the series drooled

mightily quiet and relaxing at motorway speeds with no wind noise and little tyre roar, the engine just giving a comforting growl on acceleration.

The interiors are a lesson in understated ergonomics: comfortable and easily adjusted seats, good all-round vision, extremely good switches and controls, and a BMW stereo system which should be an award winner for its absolute simplicity.

The feeling of solidity is remarkable: when that door thunks shut, it's like locking the gates on a five-star nuclear bunker, you feel so safe and secure. Apart from standard driver and passenger airbags, cars from September get side-impact bags too, while every car gets anti-slip control and



The interior is an ergonomics lesson: easily adjusted seats, good all-round vision and excellent controls

BMW 5-SERIES

On sale next week, but first 6,000 for this year already sold out. Allocation around 11,000 next year. Prices: £23,550 to £42,520 (from September 1).

Range: six-cylinder models — 520i (150bhp), 523i (170bhp), 528i (193bhp); V8 — 535i (235bhp), 540i (286bhp); turbo-diesel — 525tds (143bhp).

Performance: 520i — 0 to 62mph in 10.2 seconds, top speed 137mph, avg fuel consumption 31mpg; 540i — 0 to 62mph 6.2 seconds, top speed 155mph, avg fuel consumption 23.7mpg (manual), 23.2 (automatic).

Equipment: anti-lock brakes, anti-slip control, twin airbags plus side-impact bags, six-speaker stereo, rear seat heater and air vents, cruise control, remote boot release, anti-trap electric windows, high-level brake light, "intelligent" windscreen wipers with rain sensor.

Insurance groups: 520i, 14; 523i, 15; 528i, 16; 535i, 17; 540i, 18; 525tds, 14.

Stopped in the nick of time

James Luckhurst joins in an advanced police drivers' training course

Police chases may look great on TV dramas, but the real-life problem of stopping a fleeing criminal is a lot more complex, as the tragic case of the policeman who killed nurse Judith Hood during a high-speed pursuit illustrated. The danger of high-speed pursuits has prompted police forces to look long and hard at their tactics, and to devise a package that is safer for everyone: police, suspect and motorist.

Inspector Rhys Edwards, of Surrey Police, says: "With our new system, a police driver simply would not turn blue lights and sirens on immediately, to try to reduce the feeling of urgency which can lead to unnecessarily fast driving, whether you're a police officer or a suspect."

On a training exercise with WPC Anne Bradley and driver Dave Ashworth in rural Kent, the team takes up the chase on a "suspect" red Sierra. Kent driving instructor Nick Moon says the driver must keep up with the suspect vehicle, but not take unnecessary risks.

The question of whether or not to use sirens is in some ways difficult as soon as you turn them on and a suspect does not intend stopping, there's sure to be an immediate increase in speed. Leaving the sirens off keeps the pursuit calmer, but there's little warning to motorists who may be up ahead.

In this instance, Dave and Anne immediately instigate the procedures they've been taught and start thinking about how and when they will stop the suspect. Radio communication with headquarters



Police set up a "static-stop" roadblock to seal off a motorway and intercept offenders

moments of the exercise beginning, there are plans in hand to bring it to a safe conclusion. Teamwork is vital to the success of the overall scheme developed by Surrey Police and now adopted by 26 forces in Britain.

Tactical Pursuit and Containment (TPAC) emerged as a result of various working groups, experiments and recommendations following a dramatic rise in vehicle pursuits in the early 1990s.

"TPAC goes beyond a safe pursuit," explains Inspector Edwards. "The training programme embraces higher-profile marks of our cars, a strong emphasis on teamwork and tactics that are approved by the Association of Chief Police Officers as best practice," says Inspector Edwards.

But no matter how many precautions are taken, the risks of a chase are high. "A pursuit may be over in minutes. During such a short time it is not always possible to marshal the resources necessary to implement TPAC tactics," says Inspector Edwards.

Commander Bert Aitchison of the Metropolitan Police now oversees the training programme for instructors. Although a majority of forces put their instructors through TPAC training, it's not mandatory. The Metropolitan Police is about to start training its



PC Nick Moon and the Stinger

Inspector Edwards points to a dramatic fall in vehicle-related crime since the introduction of TPAC. "We have had 70 real-life pursuit scenarios since TPAC was introduced in Surrey. There have been no injuries and no vehicles written off as a result."

Back in Kent, WPC Bradley-Taylor is describing the scene

are now on the A26 and sirens are being used to warn other drivers that something's going on. "Request permission to deploy Stinger," Bradley-Taylor calls on her radio.

Bradley-Taylor's description of the chase is vital for two reasons: it gives her colleagues information about the speed, direction and possible intentions of the suspect and, as it is being recorded, it can form a vital part of the prosecution evidence in court.

Meanwhile, a few miles ahead, another police officer is removing a large black attaché case from the boot of his patrol car and pulling out what looks like a cross between an accordion and a barbed wire fence. This is Stinger, a spiked mat that can be thrown quickly across the path of a suspect vehicle, causing controlled deflation of its tyres to the point where it would be impossible to travel at more than 20 miles an hour. Stinger was developed in the United States and has been used by many forces throughout the UK.

The beauty of Stinger is that it can be deployed effectively at any speed, and on any road.

However, there is still some scepticism about conducting so much of the TPAC training on public roads. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has called for as much off-road training as possible, so that contact with the public is minimised. "The police need to be in a position to arrest the public, but there

F1 Fantasy Drive update



THE TIMES

TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE GERMAN GP

Last race points Total Fantasy points

Group A

01 M Schumacher 80 581

02 J Alesi 89 885

03 D Hill 85 875

Group B

04 G Berger 69 738

05 E Irvine 47 536

06 J Villeneuve 87 944

Group C

07 D Coulthard 81 836

08 M Hakkinen 30 875

09 H Frenzen 60 698

Group D

10 M Brundle 66 699

11 R Barrichello 81 778

12 J Herbert 32 688

Group E

13 M Salo 80 663

14 P Lamy 73 593

15 P Diniz 29 642

Group F

16 U Katayama 24 314

17 J Verstappen 4 416

18 O Panis 83 733

Group G

19 G Fisichella 0 377

20 R Rosset 80 407

Group H

21 L Badoer 0 365

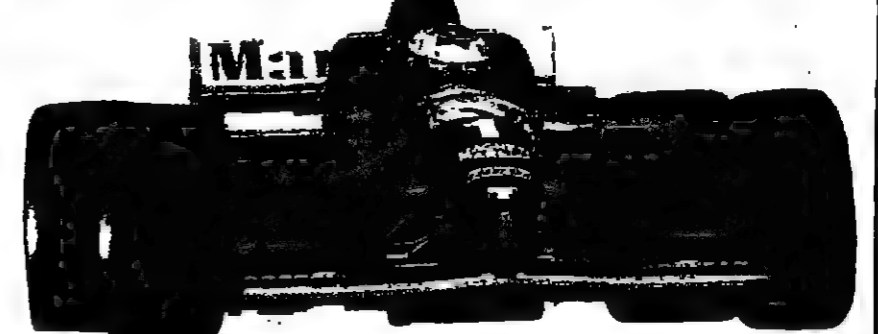
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*Replaces T Marques

Below we print the results of last week's German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, plus the cumulative points in each category for the ten races in our fantasy game so far. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count towards our point scoring system. Also today we print the latest positions at the top of our leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot which shows the position, number of points to date, team

name, and the name of the fantasy team manager. The table shows a clear leader with 5,696 points.

Our tenth race winner for the performance of his team in the German Grand Prix is Mr R Fellows from Burnley, whose team, Brum Burners, scored 581 points. He wins a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix on August 25. He was selected at random from those team managers who scored 581 points.



Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: D Hill 20 points; G Berger 19; M Schumacher 18; M Hakkinen 17; J Alesi 16; J Villeneuve 15; D Coulthard 14; E Irvine 13; R Barrichello 12; H-H Frenzen 11; P Diniz 10; O Panis 9; U Katayama 8; J Herbert 7; M Salo 6; U Katayama 5; J Verstappen 4; P Lamy 3; R Rosset 2.

Finishing points are scored by the top 20 drivers at the end of every grand prix: D Hill 20 points; J Alesi 19; J Villeneuve 18; M Schumacher 17; D Coulthard 16; R Barrichello 15; O Panis 14; H-H Frenzen 13; M Salo 12; M Brundle 11; R Rosset 10; P Lamy 9; G Berger 8. (No other finishers)

Lap points one point for each lap completed: D Hill 45 points; J Alesi 45; J Villeneuve 45; M Schumacher 45; D Coulthard 45; R Barrichello 45; O Panis 45; H-H Frenzen 44; M Brundle 44; M Salo 44; R Rosset 44; P Lamy 43; G Berger 42; E Irvine 34; J Herbert 25; P Diniz 19; U Katayama 19; M Hakkinen 13.

Improved position points three points for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position: R Rosset 24 points; M Salo 18; P Lamy 18; H-H Frenzen 15; O Panis 15; J Alesi 9; J Villeneuve 9; R Barrichello 8; D Coulthard 8.

01 5,696	Locust	G Dams
02 5,686	J Hunt D1	J Hunt
03 5,679	J Hunt U	J Hunt
04 5,669	Lonsdale Eagles	M Walsh
05 5,648	Wright Track	C Wright
06 5,648	The Simpletons	M Slim
07 5,648	Scab Car	R Howells
08 5,648	The Great 8	M Neathen
09 5,648	Richie's Trovers	J Richardson
10 5,648	Boy Racer	J Moore
11 5,648	RKV18	D Rokov
12 5,648	Cowgirls Racing	R Wheeler
13 5,648	Phoney	D Park
14 5,648	Chicken Roosters	S Maurice
15 5,648	Dream Team 8	D Springate
16 5,648	Cliff's Chargers	C Rice
17 5,647	Clandeboys	I Laurensen

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the German Grand Prix at Hockenheim and will be updated again on Wednesday August 14 after the Hungarian Grand Prix.

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However, the AA is yet to have any airbag thefts reported by its patrolmen and believed that such incidents could be isolated. A spokesman warned: "We do not want to get too carried away and end up advertising a new form of theft. We have heard of the same thing happening in the United States but so far it has not happened here and we do not want it to."

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There were 135 sales of used cars per 1,000 people in Britain in 1995, against 118 in 1994. The market is nearly half as big again as that in Germany, Britain's nearest rival, where there were 91 secondhand

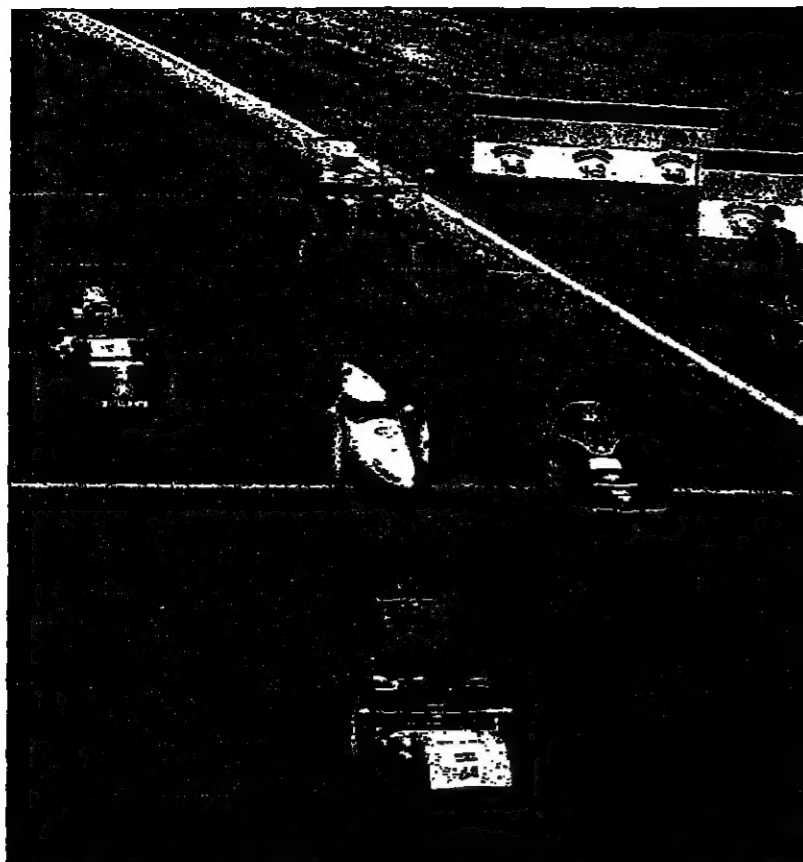
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BHANA	B 1700-9
ABC 44M	C 1700-9
1ABR	D 1700-9
2ABR	E 1700-9
ABC 4	F 1700-9
77 ACH	G 1700-9
2ABR	H 1700-9
52 ACH	I 1700-9
52 ACH	J 1700-9
77 ACH	K 1700-9
77 ACH	L 1700-9
77 ACH	M 1700-9
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77 ACH	O 1700-9
77 ACH	P 1700-9
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77 ACH	R 1700-9
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Jennai Cox on the measured pace of the fuel-efficiency competition, heading for the 10,000mpg barrier



Weight is all-important in the Mileage Marathon, won this year by Honda's 30kg carbon-fibre monocoque-chassis car (right)

Cruising on the whiff of an oil-rag

With three bicycle-size wheels, bodywork resembling a toothpaste tube and so light it can be lifted with one hand, the Japanese Team 1200 vehicle last month became the most fuel-efficient car in the world.

In an event described as the "X-files of the motoring world" a team of five Honda factory workers beat 80 competitors from around the world for the second year to achieve 5,348 miles per gallon in their 30kg carbon-fibre monocoque-chassis car. The most economical vehicle on the open road, according to the Guinness Book of Records, is the Honda Civic ET1, which did 85.96mpg in the Round-Britain economy test in 1993.

What is now known as the Shell Helix Mileage Marathon started 50 years ago as a test for family saloon cars. By the 1960s engines were modified, pushing performance to 365mpg and in 1976 a group of enthusiasts using cycles and motor-

bikes with sidecar platforms broke the 1,000mpg barrier.

Today the vehicles are driven ten miles round a circuit with a fixed amount of fuel which is measured after ten laps. Motor manufacturers, engine hobbyists and technology students have joined the quest for the 10,000mpg car.

A team of students from Cranfield managed 1,097mpg on the one-mile oval at Mallory Park in Leicester 20 years ago. Six years later four machines achieved 2,000mpg and in 1988 a vehicle built by two Honda technicians achieved 6,409mpg. The unbeaten world record was set by a French team, Lycée la Joliverie A, which reached 7,951mpg.

Vehicles challenging that record need to be aerodynamic, small-engineered, extremely lightweight and driven by miniature pilots. The RAC gives the event special dispensation so that children as young as ten can drive. One of the smallest

competitors this year was 4ft Laura Wilson, weighing 4st 9lbs.

The winning Honda vehicle is no longer than a Mini, 26in wide and 22in high. Clad in slippery panels to minimise wind resistance, it runs on a 30cc magnesium engine. The six-stroke cycle engine (the design for which came to the team leader in a dream) ensures that gasses are expelled more regularly than in a road car.

Drivers use a "coast and burn" technique to get the most out of every drop of fuel and although the average speed must be 15mph, corners are turned as quickly as possible without braking to make maximum use of the momentum.

What started as no more than a game is gradually producing information that could be used to build more fuel-efficient road cars. Honda says some of the technology, such as the computer-controlled engine, could soon be adapted for standard vehicles.

Used MoT'd cars exposed as death-traps

Fears about the safety of the increasing number of old bangers on Britain's roads are being raised after a survey revealed that all the cars purchased in a study by consumer watchdogs were unroadworthy.

The team from Devon county council found defective handbrake cables, insecure brake pipes, serious steering faults and extensive rust in the cars which were all sold with current MoT certificates.

The findings come as new statistics show that more than 2.4 million cars over nine years old were sold last year, an increase of 146 per cent in four years and far greater than sales of new cars, which reached only 1.9 million.

"What has been discovered in Devon can in all probability be mirrored across the rest of country," warns Richard Seddon, Devon's public protection committee chairman.

Watchdogs discovered serious faults in all the aged second-hand forecourt bargains they tested, say Tony Dawe and Kevin Eason

"The exercise was a unique way of gauging the availability of dangerous cars exposed for sale at the lower end of the market and also questions the reliance which motorists place upon the MoT test."

The dozen cars were all bought from second-hand car dealers by the team of trading standards officers which regularly targets the car trade. All the cars were more than nine years old and cost between £215 and £560, the price which many people pay for a car for their sons and daughters.

The most expensive car, a W-registered Ford Fiesta with a MoT certificate only a month

old, had an insecure brake pipe and a front brake pad which did not make full contact with the disc. A £460 X-registered Ford Escort was dangerously corroded with an insecure exhaust and faulty wheel-hub bearing.

Among the cheaper cars, a £260 W-registered Audi 80 suffered from brake imbalance, corroded fuel pipes and an insecure air intake and fuel distribution unit.

A Y-registered Datsun Stanza, sold for £230 with a six-month-old MoT, was badly rusted with insecure brake pipes and collapsed clutch pedal mounting. Two tyres

had less tread than the legal limit and the car was sold with tyre pressures on the rear wheels of 35 and six pounds per square inch. The front bumper was also falling off.

"Consumers paying between £200 and £600 are entitled to buy a safe car," says Steve Butterworth, Devon's director of trading standards. "Our survey shows that they are playing Russian roulette with their lives and other road users if they rely on the MoT certificates as an indication of the safety of the vehicle."

While the Devon findings are quite shocking, Nicholas Scholes, a part-time dealer from Uxbridge, Middlesex, says there are plenty of good buys for people with an eye for a bargain. "Cars are better made these days and go on a lot longer than they ever did," he explains. "For the most part, they are more reliable and the bodies can remain in

great shape if they are well looked after."

He adds: "People want to find a car for their son or daughter which is cheap to buy and insure, a factor which is now very important. They might want a second car for their wives, but they don't want to spend more than £1,000, which is the psychological price barrier. If they can find something that is in good shape, has an MoT and is about £500, they are happy."

Butterworth and his team are demanding tougher measures, however, to clamp down on the issue of "dodgy" MoT certificates. They want greater powers to check cars on garage forecourts.

"While trading standards officers have extensive powers to check on the descriptions applied to goods and services, they have no power to check on the roadworthiness of vehicles offered for sale on car forecourts," Butterworth says. "The consequences are that officers can only respond to problems after the consumer has complained and that may be too late."



Peter Greene, of the Devon trading standards team, inspects one of the faulty parts

The increase in old cars on the roads is also disturbing motoring organisations, environmentalists and motor industry executives who warn that the most elderly 10 per cent of cars on the road cause half the pollution.

The Labour Party is considering adopting an industry proposal to pay motorists to scrap cars over ten years old, following successful trials of the scheme abroad. The French Government offered a 5,000 franc (£660) incentive to motorists to scrap their bangers and put the grant towards a new car; the result was an increase of about 280,000 new models bought under the scrap-for-cash plan.

Introducing such a scheme here would reverse the trend where motorists shy away from new cars because they believe them to be too expensive, while insurance rates have spiralled because of theft and vandalism.

Alan Copps on the mistakes that delayed a written test result for a month

New test write-off for Louise

THE INTRODUCTION of the theory driving test on July 1 has been fraught with difficulty, but few new drivers can have had such a frustrating time as Louise Carmody from Bridgend, Cardiff.

She was one of the first to sit and to pass the new test, yet she has only just received official notification of her pass, which means she can now apply for a full licence, exactly one month after completing the classroom theory test.

Her story is a series of blunders for which the Driving Standards Agency issued an "unreserved apology" this week after being contacted for the second time by Car 96.

Louise sat her test at the DSA's Cardiff theory centre on July 2, having passed her practical test the previous day. When she got into the classroom she noticed that a mistake had been made in her driver number and other details at the head of the paper. She pointed it out, it was amended and, together with other candidates, she completed



Louise Carmody: sent a new test date instead of a pass

the questions and was told to expect a result in about ten days' time. A week later friends who sat the test with her had received their results. She had heard nothing.

Her mother, Kath Carmody, called the DSA's

inquiry hotline fearing that the mistaken details might be responsible for the delay. "I was passed from person to person and couldn't get any satisfaction. So in the end I wrote to them. But the really annoying thing is that they

never responded to my letters," she says. Finally in a series of telephone calls on July 19, the DSA confirmed both to her and to Car 96 that Louise had passed and said that a letter to that effect would be issued.

Astonishingly what then arrived at Louise's home was a letter dated July 22, confirming another appointment for the test on July 31. "I just couldn't believe it. We'd waited all that time, been told that she'd passed and then they sent a letter setting a new date," said Mrs Carmody.

"Louise had been offered a free motorway driving lesson and was anxious to take advantage of it, but she was told she couldn't do it without a full licence."

After a further exchange of letters, Louise finally got her notification on Thursday. "Something has obviously gone horribly wrong here. We'll look into it and in the meantime offer her an unreserved apology," said a DSA spokeswoman.

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